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75¢

First newborn of 2017 is a boy

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

A healthy baby boy born to Bangladeshi parents in the wee hours of Jan. 1, 2017 is the CNMI's first baby born in 2017.

The still unnamed baby boy was delivered at the Commonwealth Health Center at exactly 4am.

See **BOY** on **Page 4**



ERWIN ENCINARES

Staff of the Commonwealth Health Center and representatives of Marianas Pacific Distributors Inc. pose for a picture with the first newborn baby of 2017. From left to right: Arienne Pandi RN, Marpac representatives Frank Mettao and Shirley Santos, family of the 2017 baby, April Liske-Clark RN, Edna Abantao RN, nursing supervisor Joy Oblea RN, Mary Ann Acido RN, and Jennifer Demapan RN.

Scientists back Trench's Unesco nomination

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

A group of 55 scientists hailing from different parts of the world has sent a letter to support the nomination of the Marianas Trench to the World Heritage Site list of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, or Unesco.

The letter was addressed to Jonathan Putnam of the National Park Service Office of International Affairs. All signatories

were international scientists that support the nomination. Some of them are from the United States, Chile, France, United Kingdom, Iceland, Portugal, Namibia, India, Italy, Japan, Austria, Canada, Brazil, and Greece, to name a few.

The 55 members of the deep-sea research community represent 46 institutions and 19 nations, all in support of the nomination.

Deep-sea ecologist and population geneticist Dr. Andrew Thaler, who recently visited the

See **SCIENTISTS** on **Page 4**

'Senate not taking away retirees' money'

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Senate on Friday clarified that the recommendation they made on

House Bill 19-52 would not take away money from the NMI Retirement Fund and fund other projects in the CNMI's three senatorial districts. Rep. Francis S. Taimanao's (Ind-

Saipan) HB 19-52 earmarks 25 percent of casino gross revenue tax for the payment of all retirees, and includes the Northern Marianas

See **SENATE** on **Page 4**

Revelers say hello to 2017, goodbye to a year of conflicts

As 2016 draws to a close, revelers around the world are bidding a weary adieu to a year filled with political surprises, prolonged conflicts, deadly

attacks at gatherings and deaths of legendary celebrities.

Here's a look at how people ushered in the new year:

NEW YORK CITY

An estimated 1 million people ushered in the new year in Times Square, See **REVELERS** on **Page 4**

INSIDE



LOCAL

The annual Christmas in the Marianas festival ended with the Mo-chitsuki Festival.

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WORLD

Turkish police struggle to track down a gunman who attacked New Year's Eve revelers.

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LIFE & STYLE

Mariah Carey's New Year's show is her latest mishap in the spotlight.

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Local

A tourist pounds the mochi using a “kine,” a traditional Japanese mallet used for pounding mochi as water is splashed onto the mochi in between pounding to prevent it from sticking to the stone bowl, or “usu.”

ERWIN ENCINARES

Mochitsuki Festival welcomes 2017

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The annual Christmas in the Marianas festival ended with the last scheduled date of the festival celebrating the Japanese traditional New Year festivity, the Mochitsuki Festival, last Dec. 30, 2016.

The festival attracted many tourists of different nationalities: Japanese, American, Chinese, Korean, and even some from Turkey.

“Since the beginning, we noticed [the tourists] coming out, so the performers bring them up on stage to dance and have a good time. On top of all that, we also did weaving demonstrations, which the tourists really got into,” said Marianas Visitors Authority Community Projects specialist Ryan Calvo.

“We are happy to see that kind of interaction [between] our visitors abroad and our local community,” he added.

The Mochitsuki Festival is how the Japanese community welcomes the New Year. It involves the making of tradi-

tional mochi, which is pounded day-old sticky rice served with either a sweet stew of red beans known as “oshiruko mochi” or splashed with soy sauce and wrapped in seaweed known as “isobe mochi,” which are both handed out to passers-by during the festival.

According to Hideaki Sawada, owner of Furusato Restaurant, the term mochitsuki was derived from the sticky rice treat, “mochi,” combined with the Japanese expression of hitting, “tsuki.”

The making of mochi was demonstrated during the festival, with festivalgoers being allowed to pound the mochi placed on a large stone bowl known as an “usu,” using the “kine,” a traditional Japanese mallet for pounding the mochi.

According to Sawada, the Japanese eat mochi after New Year and make them before the New Year as an offering to Japanese deities. The mochi is eaten after New Year and symbolizes long life and good fortune for the year ahead.

Civil Service dismissed from suits

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho has dismissed the Civil Service Commission as a co-defendant in separate discrimination lawsuits filed by police captain Lawrence M. Camacho and police officer 3 Jason T. Tarkong.

The judge issued the dismissal after Camacho and Tarkong, through their counsel Robert T. Torres, and CSC, through assistant attorney general Michael Witry, agreed to the partial dismissal of the cases.

The agreement resolves CSC’s role in the cases. That leaves the Department of Public Safety as the remaining defendant. It also means the judge shall hear Camacho’s and Tarkong’s grievance, including DPS’ motion to dismiss the matter.

Camacho, a 25-year veteran in the CNMI’s police force, asked for judicial review and an injunction against DPS and CSC for allegedly not selecting him to be the director of police despite being the only one qualified.

Tarkong, also a 25-year veteran in the CNMI’s police force, filed the same petition

against DPS and CSC for alleged discrimination after he was not promoted to sergeant.

Camacho and Tarkong, through Torres, have asked the court to stop CSC and DPS from filling the vacant positions until the court complete its review.

Camacho and Tarkong asked the court to, among other things, compel DPS and CSC to comply with the Personnel System Rules and Regulations and the competitive selection, merit increases, and promotion processes.

Last Wednesday, the parties filed an agreement that resolves the issue against CSC.

CSC stipulates that its inaction on Camacho’s and Tarkong’s grievances “is and has been at an end.”

CSC has conceded it cannot review or hear Camacho’s and Tarkong’s grievance due to its lack of resources. CSC gave notice that its inaction is an effectual denial of a hearing and is a final agency action.

The judge accepted the CSC’s determination. He also determined that Camacho and Tarkong have exhausted their administrative remedies with CSC. **(Ferdie De La Torre)**

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Yamamoto insists that sale of vessel should proceed

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Even if the federal court is 100 percent convinced that Japanese investor Takahisa Yamamoto is a joint venturer in cargo ship M/V *Luta* and is no "stranger" to the vessel, its sale should still go ahead as there are now two other parties who have joined the motion to have it sold.

Yamamoto, through George Lloyd Hasselback, also said that determining if he is a joint venturer with M/V *Luta*'s owner is premature at this point.

Two other parties—the former crew of M/V *Luta* and Long Consulting LLC—have joined in Yamamoto's motion to have the vessel sold.

The opposition (Luta Mermaid LLC and its president Abelina T. Mendiola and others), however, does not mention this joinder, nor does it provide any argument as to why the court should ignore the joinder of these parties, Hasselback said.

"Given that two other parties have joined this motion, even if the opposition were eventually proven right and Yamamoto's lien declared invalid, the sale should proceed," the lawyer asserted.

Given that Abelina Mendiola's allegations contradicts some of the facts alleged in Yamamoto's complaint, Hasselback said it is a foregone conclusion that "disputed questions of fact" exist regarding Yamamoto's role in the business of running the M/V *Luta*.

It goes without question that some defendants will claim that Yamamoto was a joint venturer and, likewise, he has already claimed that he was an investor entitled to a maritime lien, Hasselback said.

Hasselback said the determination of "who is telling

the truth" should not be decided in the context of selling the vessel.

The owners and operators of Luta Mermaid LLC, which owns M/V *Luta*, oppose Yamamoto's request for the court to order for the sale of the vessel.

Luta Mermaid LLC, M/V *Luta*, Luta Mermaid LLC president Abelina T. Mendiola, Deron T. Mendiola, and Fidel S. Mendiola III, through counsel William M. Fitzgerald, asserted that the court should deny Yamamoto's motion.

Fitzgerald said if Abelina Mendiola's affidavit is contested, then the court must hold an evidentiary hearing because there will be a question of fact.

Fitzgerald said the most significant issue for the court to decide is whether Yamamoto is a joint venture owner of M/V *Luta*, or is he a stranger to the vessel who simply provided money to buy it and its necessities.

"By stranger to the vessel is meant an independent vendor who supplied something that the vessel needed," the lawyer said.

Yamamoto is suing Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog and the owners/operators of Luta Mermaid LLC for allegedly refusing to pay back the \$3.4 million that he put up for the vessel.

After Yamamoto filed the lawsuit last Oct. 25, the U.S. Marshal Service arrested or seized the ship.

Yamamoto recently asked the court to order the sale of M/V *Luta* to avoid its deterioration and excessive cost of keeping the vessel while his lawsuit is pending in court.

In her declaration attached to their opposition, Abelina Mendiola, 53, said it was Yamamoto's idea to go into shipping on Rota, which was developed out of his interest to

acquire Sunset Villa on Rota, owned by her sons.

Abelina Mendiola said after Yamamoto started to discuss with her husband, Fidel S. Mendiola Jr., about doing business on Rota, his idea which they agreed to was that he finances the businesses and they provide time and services in management, operation, and logistics.

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Drunk man allegedly steals Hilux truck, collides with another's car

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

A car allegedly stolen by an intoxicated man from an auto shop in Gualo Rai last Tuesday collided with another vehicle along Chalan Kiya Drive shortly that same day.

Ryan Rabauliman Pua, 31, was arrested for theft of vehicle, reckless driving, and criminal mischief.

Police said that Pua admitted to stealing a Toyota Hilux pickup truck with license plate ACS 176.

His bail was set Thursday at \$15,000 cash; preliminary hearing is on Jan. 5 at 9am.

Assistant public defender

Nancy Dominski was appointed as counsel for Pua. Assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas appeared for the government.

Police said that three police officers responded to XO Market in Gualo Rai on Tuesday, Dec. 27, at 4:35pm, in response to a theft incident.

While one officer was entertaining the theft complaint, the owner of an auto shop near the store approached the two officers and asked them to chase his Toyota Hilux, which had just been stolen from his shop five minutes ago.

The two officers gave chase to the truck that headed south-

See **DRUNK** on Page 4

House committees shaping up

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER

The GOP leadership in the House of Representatives is finalizing the list of the members of its nine committees, with several new faces supposedly getting chairmanships once the 20th Legislature begins session on Jan. 9.

The Republican super ma-

jority met last Friday to finalize the composition of each committee before their *sine die* session this week. They are also planning to create some committees that would deal with social issues in the CNMI.

The GOP won 15 of the 20 seats at stake in the House where Rep. Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan) would retain the House speakership.

Representative-elect Janet U. Maratita (R-Saipan) is the presumptive vice speaker while Rep. Glenn L. Maratita (R-Rota) is the probable floor leader.

Rep. Angel S. Demapan (R-Saipan) is reported to be the next Ways and Means Committee chair, replacing Rep. Antonio P. Sablan (Ind-Saipan). Rep. Joseph Leepan

T. Guerrero (R-Saipan) is expected to retain his post as chairman of the Commerce and Tourism Committee while Rep. Edwin P. Aldan (Ind-Saipan) will reportedly get the Education Committee.

Representative-elect Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) would be likely head the Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee, while outgoing vice speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) is said to lead the Games Committee,

which was created to address issues that would concern the casino industry in the CNMI.

Representatives-elect Francisco S. Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) and Jose I. Itibus (R-Saipan) would be the probable chairmen of the Public Utilities, Transportation, and Utilities, and Health committees while Gregorio M. Sablan, another one of the new faces in the 20th Legislature, is reportedly to head the Federal and Foreign Affairs Committee.

Rep. John Paul P. Sablan (R-

Saipan) is expected to remain chairman of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation. Representatives-elect Francisco C. Aguon, Donald C. Barcinas, and Alice S. Igitol are the other GOP members in the House.

Rep. Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) is the minority leader. Saipan representatives Blas Jonathan T. Attao, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Edwin K. Propst, and Vinson E. Sablan would join him in the independent bloc.

REVELERS

From Page 1

screaming and kissing as the glittering crystal ball dropped.

New Year's Eve revelers began to fill Times Square hours before midnight. They braved cold temperatures and strong winds at the Crossroads of the World to greet 2017 amid heavy police protection.

Maria Raimilla, from New Jersey, said 2016 was rough.

"Everything is going to be new," she said at midnight. "I just want to find happiness this year and leave all the bad things behind."

Lori Haan, from Tucson, Arizona, and her husband were on their first trip to New York. She said she's looking forward to what 2017 brings.

"This is a great start to the new year," she said. "We are doing something new and exciting, and I hope that it's a theme for the rest of the year."

Dozens of 20-ton sanitation trucks weighted with an extra 15 tons of sand blocked off streets leading to the celebration zone to avoid the possibility of a truck attack like those in Germany and France in recent months. About 7,000 police officers, along with specially armed counterterrorism units and bomb-sniffing dogs, were on guard.

PHILIPPINES

The Philippines' notorious tradition of dangerous New Year's Eve celebrations per-

sisted after President Rodrigo Duterte delayed to next year his ban on the use of powerful firecrackers, often worsened by celebratory gunfire.

Powerful firecrackers and gunfire have maimed hundreds of people and killed some each year across the Philippines despite government crackdowns, an annual government scare campaign and efforts by officials to set up centralized fireworks displays, like on Saturday night.

AUSTRALIA

Sydney sent up a dazzling tribute to 2016's fallen icons with a New Year's Eve fireworks display honoring the late singer David Bowie and late actor Gene Wilder, becoming the first major city to bid a bitter-sweet adieu to a turbulent year.

The glittering display over Sydney's harbor and bridge featured Saturn- and star-shaped fireworks set to "Space Oddity," the classic song by Bowie, among the seemingly endless parade of beloved entertainers who died in 2016.

Wilder was honored as the bridge lit up in a rainbow of colors while a song from his film "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" played.

TURKEY

New Year's celebrations turned deadly when an armed assailant believed to have been dressed as Santa Claus opened fire at a nightclub in Istanbul, killing dozens of people. Istanbul's governor said at least 39

people were killed and about 70 others were wounded.

BRAZIL

More than 2 million people have welcomed 2017 at Rio de Janeiro's Copacabana beach.

Twelve minutes of fireworks amazed many of the more than 860,000 tourists who traveled to Rio for the party.

The event was more modest than last year due to the city's recession. Still, tourists and Brazilians enjoyed a festival of sounds, including two sets of drums from popular samba schools.

LAS VEGAS

A decked-out bride and groom walking to a chapel and photo-happy tourists from halfway around the world were among the estimated 300,000 visitors turning out to celebrate the new year Las Vegas style.

The city's celebration features some of the biggest names in music headlining nightclubs and a fireworks show launching from the tops of half a dozen high-rise casinos.

Local police joined forces with the National Guard, the Secret Service and FBI agents to protect Sin City on one of its biggest nights of the year.

GERMANY

In Berlin the mood was more somber than celebratory.

"I don't like the way politics is going," Daniel Brandt said. "Fears are being fanned, and people are so angry with

each other."

The tone of public debate in Germany has become shriller over the past two years with the influx of hundreds of thousands of migrants.

Walking by the Reichstag, Germany's Parliament building, Hamed Noori said 2016 had been a good year.

"I came to Germany from Afghanistan," he said. "Life is better here."

Nicole Durand-Nusser, originally from France but living in Berlin for almost 50 years, said 2016 had been a difficult year: "Brexit, Trump, Erdogan—it's all getting worse."

Later, police said they arrested a man who shouted "bomb, bomb, bomb" at Berlin's massive open-air New Year's party.

RUSSIA

President Vladimir Putin invoked a bit of seasonal enchantment in his New Year's Eve remarks to the nation.

"Each of us may become something of a magician on the night of the New Year," Putin said in a short televised address broadcast in the closing minutes of 2016 in each of Russia's 11 time zones.

"To do this we simply need to treat our parents with love and gratitude, take care of our children and families, respect our colleagues at work, nurture our friendships, defend truth and justice, be merciful and help those who are in need of support. This is the whole secret."

Historically, the Marianas Trench, which hosts Challenger Deep, the deepest point on Earth, also proved to be valuable to the Challenger Expedition of 1872, which is noted as the birth of modern marine science, by providing the British Royal Navy survey ship HMS *Challenger* the first recordings of a portion of the Marianas Trench.

ist Liu Zi Mo, accompanied by her own mother, named the newborn baby boy Daniel Liu.

Liu follows the one-child policy of China, said a translator, which was why she gave birth on Saipan. The baby weighed 7 lbs and 4.8 ounces and his birth concluded the first few newborn babies of the first eight hours of 2017.

SCIENTISTS

From Page 1

CNMI and Guam, claims that "global recognition [of the Marianas Trench] is long overdue."

The Marianas Trench could fit the whole Mt. Everest in it plus a mile more, making it the deepest point

in the planet, measuring a little over 932 miles long, more than 37 miles wide, and over 6 miles deep.

The Marianas Trench would be the first ever World Heritage Site that includes unexplored ecosystems that could possibly house undiscovered species found only in the Trench along with major scientific discoveries

and information on biological processes in the deepest ecosystem on the planet. It is also home to submerged volcanoes that host deep-sea hydrothermal vents, the largest documented mud volcanoes, coral atolls and fringing reef ecosystems that support apex predators like sharks and whales, as well as habitat-forming stony corals.

wipes, overnight pads, and baby formula to get the happy family started with the year.

Bapariy is a farmer from Rota and resides on the island with his wife, 6-year-old daughter and 5-year-old son. He works for his brother on Rota.

About an hour and a half later, the second newborn of 2017 was born. Chinese tour-

The baby weighed 7 lbs and 7.9 ounces.

Being the first baby of the year, Marianas Pacific Distributors Inc., or Marpac, donated supplies for the first baby of the year.

According to Marpac representatives Shirley Santos and Frank Mettao, the couple was given newborn diapers, baby

SENATE

From Page 1

College and the Northern Marianas Trades Institute as additional recipients.

Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), as Fiscal Affairs Committee chair, said that some House members may have had an erroneous interpretation of HB 19-52, HD1, SS1 after he made the Senate substitute.

House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan) had HB 19-52, HD1, SS1 sent back to the House Committee on Ways and Means for further review rather than kill the bill; the 20th CNMI Legislature is expected to act on it. The House, in last week's session, voted 13-3 to defeat the bill.

"The timing is very critical and we were not able to act on the bill. I suggested it to be sent back to the committee for further review rather than killing it. I don't want it to be killed and we will revisit the bill in the 20th Legislature. Ways and Means would review it since it involves the distribution of funding," said Demapan.

Rep. Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan) was one of the House members that raised concerns on the Senate substitute

made by Hofschneider. He said the Senate would take away \$15 million from the Retirement Fund to fund other projects in the three senatorial districts.

The Commonwealth Casino Commission requires Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, the lone casino licensee on Saipan, to pay \$15 million annually as part of their BGRT from the gross gaming revenue.

"It is a direct source of funding. If we take that away, we're going to come back and amend it?"

It doesn't make sense," said Attao.

Hofschneider said House members only had some misconceptions on the Senate substitute as they had increased the \$15 million to \$18 million. The Fiscal Affairs Committee's report would earmark and continuously appropriate the GRT's first \$18 million to cover or supplement the 25 percent payment of all the retirees.

"It is just a misconception and perhaps House members probably misread the Senate substitute. Any report that the Senate substitute takes away money from the Retirement Fund is false. The Senate substitute wants to make sure there would be money for the retirees before everything gets distributed," added Hofschneider.

DRUNK

From Page 3

bound on Chalan Pale Arnold Road. The two officers lost sight of the truck and returned to the scene to investigate the theft of vehicle complaint.

DPS then sent out a bulletin to alert officers to be on the lookout for a Toyota Hilux with license plate ACS-176.

The shop's owner told police that he had arrived at his Tech Auto repair shop after purchasing some parts and parked his vehicle by the entrance of the shop, turned off the ignition but left the key inside.

Five minutes later, the shop's owner heard the engine of his truck start and saw it leaving the area being driven by a man, later identified as Pua.

At 5:06pm, police officers responded near Circle K Apartment near Chalan Kiya Drive, where a vehicular crash

had happened.

Upon arriving at the scene, traffic investigator Norris Kwon noticed that the car involved in the crash was the stolen Toyota Hilux.

Kwon determined that it was Pua who was the driver of the stolen Toyota Hilux and caused the crash that damaged the truck and another vehicle.

The driver of the other vehicle, Norberto D. Camacho, told police that the Toyota Hilux was speeding when the driver lost control and struck his vehicle.

The shop's owner and a witness were escorted to the crash scene, where they identified Pua as the person who stole the truck from the auto shop.

Upon detecting a strong odor of alcoholic beverage, Pua was processed for driving while under the influence of alcohol. He was later found with a blood alcohol content of .200 percent, which exceeds the legal limit.

BOY

From Page 1

The proud father, Mokhtar Ali Bapariy, was able to string together his emotions with a few words. "I am very happy and proud," he said, while looking at the newborn that was wailing his lungs out.

JKPL names art contest winners



ERWIN ENCINARES

Conrad Bao poses with his submission to the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library literary art competition.

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library announced and awarded last Dec. 29 the winners of its art contest.

The contest was divided into two brackets, separated by ages of 12 to 14 and 15 to 17.

The top 3 winners of both divisions won gift certificates from Green Flash comics, National Office Supply, and Bestseller.

The Division 12 to 14's first place winner, Rownel Jody Coloma, won a \$50 Green Flash Comics gift certificate along with a \$25 gift certificate from National Office Supply. Coloma said he wanted to inspire others, just as he was inspired by the folk tale, *Okkodu's Clever Trick for a Beautiful Girl*.

"I just wanted to show oth-

ers that you can choose a local art piece instead of [a foreign art piece] to win something," said Coloma.

Grace Christian Academy's Conrad Bao, 12, won third place with his piece. Bao won free movie tickets for two at the Regal Saipan Megaplex 7.

Bao said the inspiration for his piece came from his Chinese roots.

"Next year is the Year of the Rooster," said Bao. "I also see this tree near my house that has chicks on its branches, so that is where my inspiration came from. I used paint, pencil and pen for my piece."

For Division 15 to 17, Ruth Park came in first, earning herself a \$50 gift certificate from Green Flash Comics and \$25 gift certificate from National Office Supply. Coming in at second was Sarah Jean Mangubat and Elizabeth Jones came in at third place.

Probable cause found vs 2 'ice' suspects

The Superior Court has found probable cause to charge two men who were arrested recently by CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force officers for alleged trafficking of methamphetamine or "ice" and conspiracy.

Associate Judge Joseph Camacho ordered Fei Long Zheng, 25, and Jiang Feng, 30, both Chinese nationals, to answer the charges.

Police detective Roque Camacho testified in Zheng's case, while police detective Rudolph Sablan spoke in court in Feng's case.

Assistant public defender Tillman Clark is counsel for Zheng, while assistant public defender Nancy Dominski is counsel for Feng.

Arraignment will be on Jan.

9, 2017, at 9am. Both were remanded into the custody of Corrections.

The judge earlier imposed a \$100,000 cash bail on each defendant.

In Zheng's case, police claimed that a cooperating defendant was able to buy \$690 worth of "ice" from him last Dec. 10 outside a house in Garapan. Police said that Zheng served as the deliveryman of another "ice" source.

In Jian Feng's case, police allege that a drug defendant identified Jian Feng as her source of "ice."

When officers arrested Jian Feng's "ice" source last Oct. 28, they allegedly seized from her 10 grams of methamphetamine. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)



Rownel Jody Coloma and his family pose with Coloma's submission to the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library literary art competition.

ERWIN ENCINARES

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SAIPAN SEWER LINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

(S-14-035)

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the replacement of sewer line in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists, in general of the replacement of asbestos cement pipe (ACP) in the area of San Antonio, Chalan Kanoa, and Susupe Village. The work shall be done not to disrupt the daily operation of the sewer discharge. The Project is to replace approximately ± 260 LF of existing 10-inch ACP, ± 2200 LF of existing 8-inch ACP, and ± 250 LF of existing 6-inch ACP, existing sewer manhole rehabilitation, installation of new concrete sewer manhole, 4-inch and 6-inch service lateral connections, installation and monitoring of wastewater temporary by-pass pumping system and road restoration.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **300 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **January 12, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **“CUC-IFB-17-010, Saipan Sewer Line Replacement Project”** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on February 02, 2017**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.


All responses to this IFB shall take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 17, 2016** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Birhen Martinez, CUC Water/Wastewater Senior Engineer – via email address birhen.martinez@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant-via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid documents, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.


GARY P. CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION TO BID

CUC-ITB-17-015

SALE AND REMOVAL OF SCRAP MATERIALS FROM THE WAREHOUSE

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is inviting interested individuals and firms to bid on CUC Scrap materials located in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained at no charge upon registration at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and One (1) copy must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **“CUC-ITB-17-015, CUC Sale & Removal of Scrap Materials from the Warehouse”** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on January 17, 2017**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

Bidders must sign a Waiver of Liability, removing CUC's liability from claims resulting from violations relating to the removal and disposal of the scrap materials. CUC shall transfer and assign the scrap materials to the prospective bidder in an “As is, Where is” condition. By accepting the transfer and assignment, the bidder acknowledges that CUC has made no representation or warranties of the merchantability, quality, fitness, and condition of the scrap materials.

The scrap materials may be inspected by appointment only, between the hours of 9:00 AM thru 3:00 PM Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, by contacting CUC Warehouse Division at telephone no. 322-6585.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the best interest of the CUC.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on January 9, 2017, to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Technician for Procurement via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

GARY CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

‘Cervical cancer treatable’

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Cervical cancer, most commonly caused by the human papilloma virus, may be the second leading type of cancer in the CNMI, next to breast cancer, yet there are several recommended ways to prevent this type of cancer as listed on cancer.gov and cancer.org.

Raising awareness about this type of cancer began last Friday when Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog signed a proclamation declaring January as Cervical Cancer Awareness Month.

Human papilloma virus, or HPV, accounts for 70 percent of cervical cancer cases and being vaccinated against it is one of the ways to prevent this cancer type. The vaccine, which provides strong protection, is effective if given to females from 9 to 26 years old and reduces the risk of infection.

Surgery, radiation therapy, chemotherapy, and targeted therapy are other ways. The Commonwealth Cancer Association still encourages every female to get a Pap test—a screening procedure—that is effective and must be done regularly by women age 21 to 65.

Pelvic pain, abnormal vagi-

nal bleeding and discharge, and painful urination are some of the symptoms of cervical cancer. The Maternal and Child Health Bureau of the Commonwealth Health Center Corp. conducts cervical cancer screening in the CNMI.

Torres and Hocog also urged all women and other members of the public to encourage their loved ones to get tested as a way to prevent the disease.

“We encourage all women in our lives to make that decision to undergo the test. It is never easy and our lives go by pretty fast that’s why we must take time to push them to get tested,” said Torres after signing the proclamation.

He pointed out that technology is now part of everyone’s daily life, and one could easily have a clinical appointment or schedule to get tested on one’s phone calendars to be easily reminded.

“Otherwise if you don’t take that extra step, we’re going to see time fly by. We don’t want to see that it’s too late. Don’t be part of the statistic and early detection is the best way. Encourage your loved one, significant other, or part-

ner to get tested,” said Torres.

Hocog recognized the efforts done by CCA and its partners to help those who are already afflicted by this type or other forms of cancer. “We recognize CCA and your partner’s efforts and vigilance to help our people.”

“The CNMI has a high percentage of having different kinds of cancer. There are times that it is already too late. CCA and other organizations have programs to promote awareness and make sure our community, especially young women, take advantage of it.”

Hocog said that women in the Commonwealth should work on keeping their health and physical wellbeing. “Our hearts go out to families who have relatives dying because of cervical cancer. The administration, together with the Legislature would continue to provide service to its citizens.”

Cancer.org is under the National Cancer Institute, which is the federal government’s lead agency for cancer research while the non-profit American Cancer Society operates cancer.org, a community-based voluntary organization.

NMC’s credit for Prior Learning info session this Thursday

The Northern Marianas College will be hosting a free information session to highlight the “Prior Learning Assessment” program this Thursday, Jan. 5, 2017, at 5:30pm in Room D-1. The Prior Learning Assessment Program awards college credit for knowledge gained through employment training programs, military services, and life-experiences as self-assessed and documented in a portfolio.

The Prior Learning Assessment Program can help working and retired professionals enhance their résumés with college credit, earn college credit toward a degree of their choice, and get ahead in or re-enter the workforce.

Students enrolled in the program may receive up to 30 credit hours toward degree completion.

The Prior Learning Assessment Program is ideal for adult students who wish to complete a degree while working in their careers. The typical student enrolling in this program is generally 25 years or older with at least five years of work

experience and meets the general admission requirements of the college.

In addition to the Prior Learning Assessment Program, the info session will feature a discussion on the availability of scholarships for government and private sector employees.

For more information, contact Bobbie Merfalen, dean of Academic Programs and Services, at 237-6706 or email barbara.merfalen@marianas.edu or visit marianas.edu. (NMC)

Family grief support group to meet on Jan. 5

The Compassionate Friends of Saipan will be holding their monthly grief support meeting on Thursday, Jan. 5, from 6pm to 7:30pm, in the NMPASI conference room on Middle Road, in Gualo Rai.

We offer understanding and hope to parents, siblings and grandparents who are grieving the loss of a child of any age, and from any cause. We provide a safe, confidential setting, in which to share our experiences, while respecting and supporting each other, and listening. We have “been there.” We do not espouse any specific religious or philosophical ideology. There is no “right way” to grieve, and family members are welcome to come to share or just to listen.

The mission of The Com-

passionate Friends is to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age and to provide information to help others to be supportive. Today more than 600 chapters serving all 50 states plus Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam and Saipan offer friendship, understanding, and hope to bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents and other family members during the natural grieving process after a child has died.

For more information, email tcfSaipan@gmail.com or call Jill Derickson (989-9821) or Donna Krum (783-1900). To learn more about The Compassionate Friends, visit their website at www.compassionatefriends.org. (PR)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy 14th birthday to Reshya Layan Meu Mung-waath! May your day be as special as you are to us! Have a wonderful one and we love you! Greetings come from your Saipan and Guahan familia.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Water outage in As Lito, parts of As Perdido and Koblerville

The villages of As Lito, portions of As Perdido, and Koblerville will experience a temporary water service interruption due to a leak on

the 8-inch water distribution main line fronting the Happy Market store in As Lito.

Water operations personnel are currently making the necessary emergency repairs. Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in the affect-

ed areas should expect restoration of services soon after.

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates ([https://](https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/)


www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). (CUC)

MVA to host ‘Marianas- chan’ auditions

The Marianas Visitors Authority will hold open auditions on Jan. 7, 2017, on Saipan for “Marianas- chan”

(Marianas child) to help promote the Northern Mariana Islands in Japan. The contest is open to U.S. citizen children ages 4-6 who reside in the CNMI. Additional details and applications are available at www.mymarianas.com, and the deadline to apply is extended to 12pm,

Jan. 6, 2017. Interested contestants from Tinian and Rota are invited to submit an application with a 1-2 minute video of the contestant to info@mymarianas.com for call back to the audition. For more information, contact the MVA at 664-3200/01. (MVA)



Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP16-CHCC/FACILITY-007

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JANUARY 27, 2017
OPENING DATE: JANUARY 30, 2017

TIME: 11:00AM
TIME: 10:00AM

“FOR HOUSEKEEPING SERVICES – COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION”

COPIES OF THE ITB PACKET MAY BE PICKED-UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ JESUS D. BABAUTA
ACTING CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S



Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP17-CHCC/WIC-09

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JANUARY 13, 2017
OPENING DATE: JANUARY 16, 2017

TIME: 3:00PM
TIME: 10:00AM


“FOR BANGLADESHI INTERPRETER/TRANSLATIONS SERVICES – CHCC WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN PROGRAM”

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY, LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.


THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ JESUS D. BABAUTA
ACTING CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS JUDICIARY



INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-JUDICIARY-03

SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 4, 2017

TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“PURCHASE OF A NEW 4X4/AWD 5 DOOR UTILITY VEHICLE FOR THE CNMI JUDICIARY, DRUG COURT”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE CASHIER WINDOW, DOOR #5, LOCATED AT THE GUMA HUSTISIA / IIMWAL AWEWE / HOUSE OF JUSTICE, SUSUPE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ HON. ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
CHIEF JUSTICE

/S/ JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER



Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP17-CHCC/WIC-10

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JANUARY 13, 2017
OPENING DATE: JANUARY 16, 2017

TIME: 3:00PM
TIME: 10:00AM

“FOR CHINESE INTERPRETER/TRANSLATIONS SERVICES – CHCC WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN PROGRAM”

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY, LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ JESUS D. BABAUTA
ACTING CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S



Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP17-CHCC/WIC-11

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JANUARY 13, 2017
OPENING DATE: JANUARY 16, 2017

TIME: 3:00PM
TIME: 10:00AM

“FOR JANITORIAL CLEANING SERVICES – CHCC WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN PROGRAM”

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THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ JESUS D. BABAUTA
ACTING CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S



Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP17-CHCC/WIC-12

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JANUARY 13, 2017
OPENING DATE: JANUARY 16, 2017

TIME: 3:00PM
TIME: 10:00AM

“FOR TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE – CHCC WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN PROGRAM”

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THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ JESUS D. BABAUTA
ACTING CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S



Scholarships now available for

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who want to enroll in college part-time



Learn more at NMC's Info Session on Jan. 5, 2017 (5:30pm at NMC's Room D1) Visit marianas.edu for details.

Kevin Guerrero
Owner & Manager
Priority Care Ambulance Services

A ship, a crew, the sea and a \$7-billion fishery

By CHIEF PETTY OFFICER SARA MOOERS
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The dark sea and sky fade into the other. The bright deck lights of a foreign fishing boat are the only horizon reference. Roughly 70 feet in length, at two miles away, the boat appears as a dot. "Set LE Phase 1," rings out over the IMC, the ship's on board intercom system.

I'm aboard the warship *Sequoia*, a 225-foot seagoing buoy tender homeported in Apra Harbor, Guam—America's westernmost territory. Out in the Philippine Sea, standing on the buoy deck I can feel the ship roll gently under my feet as we transit toward the fishing boat.

It's 2000 hours, the sun has long since set, but I can still feel residual heat from the metal decks and bulkheads of

the ship radiate up at me. The moist sea air wraps around me in a wet bear hug and I can feel my body armor secured over my T-shirt cling to me. Drop-lets of sweat escape from under my helmet. We've been over the plan, briefed the evolution, attempted to hail the vessel master in Mandarin and English, done our risk analysis to assess complexity and overall safety and now it's time to go.

The sound of the water is interrupted by the unmistakable mechanical hums and chirps of outboard engines. The cutter's small boat, piloted by a boatswain's mate, comes alongside the buoy deck as it prepared to take us aboard and transport us to the fishing boat.

One by one the boarding team goes over the side: four Coast Guard members and an Australian Fisheries Management Authority officer,



U.S. COAST GUARD PHOTO BY CHIEF PETTY OFFICER SARA MOOERS

U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officer 1st Class Brett Malone, a damage controlman and boarding team member, communicates with the rest of his team while managing the fishing vessel crew on deck as the buoy tender USCGC *Sequoia* (WLB-215) maintains station off the stern of the Jinn Hsing Tsai No. 3 in the Philippine Sea, Sept. 2, 2016. The crew conducted four high seas boardings over the course of a few days to ensure compliance with Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention regulations.

Lydia Woodhouse. The ship is running nearly dark. A faint red glow can be seen on the bridge. The running lights of the small boat wink at me red and green. It's my turn. Senior Chief Petty Officer Ryan Petty, who runs the deck force, stands next to the Jacob's ladder. A flashlight in his hand with a red lens lights the flat orange rungs of the ladder as they knock against the black hull and leads to the water and the small boat more than 10 feet below.

I step gingerly onto a bitt on *Sequoia's* deck just below the gunwale, adjacent to where the ladder is secured. I heave myself over the side and onto the ladder, a vise-like grip on the top of the gunwale. "Snaps, over the side!" calls Petty into his radio up to the bridge. The small boat rises and falls with the swell be-

See SHIP on Page 14



IPI SAYS 'THANK YOU' TO ITS CONSTRUCTION TEAM

ERWIN ENCINARES

Imperial Pacific International, Ltd. Corporate Social Responsibility and Human Resources teams join the construction staff and personnel during an appreciation party tendered on their behalf at the Minachom Atdao Pavillion on Dec. 29, 2016.



ERWIN ENCINARES

A welcoming lei is presented to everyone as they entered the celebration grounds.



ERWIN ENCINARES

Construction staff and personnel pose for a photo by the beach that served as a perfect backdrop to capture the celebration.



The construction team beams with pride.

ERWIN ENCINARES



ERWIN ENCINARES

From left, executive affairs director Jamie Fejeran, CSR executive director Geri Dela Cruz, group HR and admin executive director Martin William, Construction and Procurement vice president Liwen Wu, IPI chief services officer Tao Xing, and Group HR manager Jason Min were among those who joined the close to 100 staff and personnel of IPI's construction department.



Staff, personnel, and guests are all smiles.

ERWIN ENCINARES

SRC, OVR 2016 report is now available

Each year in December, the State Rehabilitation Council and the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation release their joint annual report that highlights the performance and accomplishments of the CNMI Vocational Rehabilitation Program, better known in the community as OVR or voc rehab.

This year, the annual report committee composed of OVR staff and SRC partners, with the leadership of OVR data analyst Magdalene Reyes, put together the "Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Report."

This report provides graphs and charts about program performance outcomes as well as a profile of the client or consumer population, in-

cluding gender, age, island (individuals residing on Saipan, Tinian, or Rota), ethnicity, disability category, employment status, and so forth. In the report, program highlights and accomplishments are categorized according to OVR's state plan goals and priorities. Other information is also provided such as funding information focused on case service expenditures, and survey results of consumer satisfaction at application and at the time of successful (and even unsuccessful) closures. Special photos are added that highlight some very important activities undertaken in the past year by the SRC, OVR, and CNMI disability network part-

ners, such as the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act training in January, the Developmental Disabilities and Employment Awareness Month conference held on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota in March, and the School-to-Work Transition mini-conference sponsored by the CNMI Transition Coalition in September. The report also invites you to get to know some of OVR's successful closures, as well as your OVR staff and SRC members.

If you would like a copy of the report, please send an email to nmi-dir@ovrgov.net and type "2016 Annual Report" in the subject line. An electronic copy of the report may be found at www.ovrgov.net. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The State Rehabilitation Council and the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation's joint annual report is now ready.



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Kia Forte LX retail price \$17,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 5.40% APR for 72 monthly payments of \$234.53 or \$108.25 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment \$16,886.20.
Kia Soul LX retail price \$18,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 5.40% APR for 72 monthly payments of \$247.56 or \$114.26 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment \$17,824.32.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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EDITORIAL

Huge expansion of US military spending in offing

On Dec. 22, President-elect Donald Trump startled the worldwide community of arms-control experts with a message on Twitter.

He wrote, "The United States must greatly strengthen and expand its nuclear capability until such time as the world comes to its senses regarding nukes."

The next day, Trump spoke off-camera with Mika Brzezinski of MSNBC's "Morning Joe" program and reportedly told her, "Let it be an arms race. We will outmatch them at every pass and outlast them all."

But on the same day, President Obama signed legislation that could do more to set off an arms race than anything the president-elect has said. The National Defense Authorization Act, an annual bill affecting every aspect of the U.S. military, for the first time strikes the word "limited" from the language that describes the nation's missile defense system.

Another provision in the law calls for the Pentagon to begin research, development and testing of space-based missile defenses.

That opens the door for virtually unlimited spending on new missile defense systems aimed at countering a nuclear threat from Russia and China, an escalation from current systems designed to stop smaller threats from nations like North Korea.

This significant change in U.S. policy was made quietly on Capitol Hill and approved by overwhelming bipartisan majorities in both houses of Congress. Although President Obama issued a four-page signing statement criticizing parts of the bill, he was silent on the changes in the nuclear defense policy.

A 2012 study of missile defense technologies conducted by a panel of the National Academy of Sciences at the request of Congress estimated the minimum cost of building a space-based missile defense system at \$200 billion, not including hundreds of billions of dollars to operate it. The co-chair of the panel, retired Lockheed Corp. executive L. David Montague, said in an interview that a missile defense system could never ensure against a dedicated attack, but was "an opportunity to waste a prodigious amount of money."

Of course, to some members of Congress, it's not a waste of money if it creates a brand new defense facility and high-paying jobs in their districts.

But the new arms race is not solely of U.S. making. Trump's message on Twitter followed a speech by Russian President Vladimir Putin vowing to "strengthen the strategic nuclear forces" of his nation, and calling for an upgrade of non-nuclear forces so they are "capable of neutralizing any military threats."

The Washington Post's Bob Woodward reported that military and intelligence sources see "a giant buildup" of Rus-

See **HUGE** on Next Page



Expectations for 2017

A year of mild pleasant surprises has come to a close, but its unresolved questions would generate quakes this year. Where are the fault lines and could we approach them like futurists using due diligence in our review?

Turn the page to 2017 and there we find critically important and challenging issues trumpeting the same themes since last year.

Uppermost is the mounting deficit and obligations that increases by leaps and bounds. It dims our ability to deal with them. It portends likely financial hiccups or paralysis up ahead.

But there's guarded hope that something would break for the better. However, a lot depends on management skills and experience handling what's left of investments! The trickle expansion in revenue could very well be the last of it before it heads south permanently.

There are major issues that aren't necessarily visible that could slowly paralyze the NMI over the next two years. The tap dance between Trump and Jinping could easily turn out of sync, if not explosive.

The relationship between Trump and Jinping reminds me of the saying, "When two giants fight the grass gets crushed." The answer is obvious and any discussion about being reduced to fiscal paralysis is a given. How would we fare after elbowing Japan and Korea out of the islands?

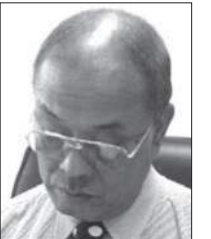
Turn north and review the implications of the eventual opening of the casino industry in Japan. It would build competitive casinos. It has mature basic infrastructure to do it. We thought we did but don't have anything to our name except the comforts of ad hoc disposition. We don't even plan for our future. It's all "que sera" in the stormy sea of ad hoc undertaking.

The decision of the U.S. Senate to skip the CW-2 request is a loud message it has no interest considering the so-called dire need. The national Republican troops have had enough with Obama's failed amnesty program. This plus a local increase in the minimum wage would adversely affect the small business community here. Have these been given due diligence?

Land compensation would be a big fiscal challenge given its sizeable monetary requirement of over \$80 million. It's good, though, that the path to resolution is now moving some-

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.



where. Hope that the pile of debts and obligations would sail through without any adverse effects on the quality of public services. It's a definite challenge!

Seismic rupture: There are seismic rumblings jolting I Deni or Capital Hill. Learned it's an eruption between Raffy and Biktot as the two individually eye prospects for the 2018 gubernatorial contest. Must have erupted into a love-hate relationship level by now. It's the buzz on the hill. Will it be the same tandem or a parting of the ways?

Both have excess baggage to contend with as they plan their next move. The former must answer questions about nepotism, the hallmark of his tenure; while the narcissistic Biktot the failure of everything he touches. Though the local court has absolved him of the \$400,000 lawsuit, he still owes taxpayers their dues, if there's still some semblance of conscience left in him. Then there's the long parade of other lawsuits awaiting him in federal court.

Raffy is more empathetic than Biktot. If you're in his circle of political loyalists you're in good hands. But both had to muddle along at the helm without a public mandate fouled by an acquiescence of the AG's opinion. I call their tenure "alleged" heads of state. Well, the AG had the multitude sowing the mess he's sought!

Interesting to gauge if the guys haven't individually or collectively squandered the company store? Are they still in tune with issues that are now the mouthwash of discussion among the multitude? Or has the elitist culture blinded their once humble demeanor?

While Raffy shops around for a partner, Biktot knows that

See **2017** on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**Don't blow the cash**

To our leaders, how futuristic are you? Look at 2017 to 2019—the economic factors, simple view but relevant, wavering, and precipitous: Anytime our government grants pay raises because they deem the economy to be booming, it raises eyebrows, not out of spite but out of concern. Let's face it, our economy is not booming. BSI came ashore and started spending millions. In the process, speculation and investments drove the prices for real estate as well as other goods and services and our citizens assumed that the time was ripe to spend. Buy new cars, build new homes, spend money like there is no tomorrow.

For the record, the primary source of the revenue that led to the supplemental budget was, of course, BSI. Other sources included new investments by CNMI residents and especially from other countries, many of them with CW permits.

The casino is a welcome addition to Saipan, but it is a casino and on a very small Pacific island, and we all know or hear that casinos, regardless of location, are a volatile industry. Casinos cater to people with money. Lots of money. There are other factors that come into play—a good 24-hour working airport and working infrastructure (water and power, for example). Tinian and Rota need an airport that would allow night landing between 1800 hours and 0600 hours. Why? Because most players that frequent casinos are visitors from other countries, the main source being China, and they mostly come in at those hours. Casinos need players with big money to play with if it is to work, otherwise, they would falter or fail, and we're back to poker machines and "High Chicago." And if you read the news regularly, you'll notice that Trump has been waging an economic war with China. At this point, should China decide to control the export of cash from China through its gamblers and tourists, we stand a very good chance of repeating another post-garment industry recession. Except this one will be far worse than anyone can fathom.

Add the possible exit of our CW workers and start counting the days. Would I run into a wall of prejudice if I suggest we make these CWs permanent residents of the CNMI? And should Congress decide to massage Trump and ignore any extension of the CW program, then the "good times," as we know it, will just stop. Our elected representatives really have done little to nothing to address this issue at the federal level, preferring instead to issue excuse after excuse without regard to the unique relationship we have, which by the way, gives us a lot of opportunities not available elsewhere. And Congress? That's the body that has jurisdiction on immigration. Not the Office of the President. Congress slammed President Obama on the jurisdictional issue. To understand the gravity of our workforce problems, take a look at the 2010 CNMI Census and compare the size of our local workforce to the number of workers from other countries. We know that short of a federal miracle, we will lose all of the CW workers and their families. After Dec. 31, 2019, the CNMI's workforce will consist of only U.S. citizens and residents as well as those from the FSM. Common sense and logic dictate that many businesses, perhaps even BSI, will close due to the lack of employees, the lack of shoppers, lack of revenue, the lack of

almost everything. To label the CNMI a ghost town will be an understatement. 1980?

Now, instead of blowing the cash, how about taking a really serious look at our economy, i.e., the sources of our revenue, showing fiscal responsibility and maturity and start paying the government's billion-plus dollars in liabilities. Stop the tap dance. The music was over on Election Day. No need to prolong the butt kissing; we're not dumb. Sooner or later, we'll be looking for accountability and answers, perhaps as early as 2019 or shortly thereafter.

Let's see, save for the members of the House, most of our current leadership will still be around. So for those on the hill, a word to the wise—act responsibly. As for the workforce, and in the interest of our economic future and wellbeing, how about a few simple suggestions: Trim the government, remove the non-essentials, amend the Constitution and reduce the Legislature to unicameral with five senators representing Rota, Tinian and Saipan. Do away with the in-house lawyers and utilize the OAG. Sit down with the feds and work out a CNMI-residency program for our non-local workforce and investors to

include those who are out of status so they can work legally and start paying taxes like FICA and H/Ins. Focus on public safety, zero tolerance on drugs, clean up downtown Garapan, especially that farm that has been an eyesore for decades, focus on our tourists, yep, put up signs in Chinese, Japanese and Korean starting at the arrival terminal of our airport and for all the tourist sites. Pay off the government's obligations, all land compensations, etc. Give more money to DPS, and to CHCC to function as a hospital instead of a clinic, more money for medical referrals and doctors and nurses so we can stop hearing the horror stories of negligence and gross ineptitude, and ease up on increasing the salaries, wages and operational funds of elected officials. Please don't blow our money away. The economic source is volatile. Let's see what happens in 2017 through 2019. Just watch the expenditures. Or we may be back to fiscal year 1980. No money, just federal grants, and matching funds.

Rudy M. Sablan
Garapan, Saipan

Two opinions for 2017

When my wife and I visited the Tinian Dynasty, it reminded me of Stanley Kubrick's *The Shining*. It was vast, looming, deserted, and it felt weird to be there. Yes, there were a few gamblers, but not many. They seemed like "extras."

My wife and I wandered the endless, empty hallways and looked out the windows. There was nothing to see. No stores, no tourists spots, nothing.

So here was this vast, hulking monstrosity, virtually vacant. Why was it there at all? It seemed, and remains, terribly out of place—similar to the billionaire loony who bought London Bridge and had it re-assembled in the American desert. Why?

Now, the Dynasty is in a pickle because \$75 million in fines are owed and no investor with any brains would touch it. And yet there may be a way out.

The Dynasty would make a first-rate military hospital, and I hope the U.S. military considers it. The building appears to be sound and in good shape. There are more than enough rooms for patients, and other spaces for administration, urgent care, operating theaters, and all of the other things a treatment facility requires.

The Tinian runway would have to be reinforced, but that's likely to happen anyway, now that it's going to become the "divert airfield." I don't think the current runway would support a big jet more than once a week.

Usually, military treatment facilities are reserved for military personnel, but there have been exceptions in the past wherein civilians requiring urgent medical care are admitted. If this were possible, it would certainly lighten the burden of our fleabag CHC, as well as having teams of specialists standing by.

Guam has two military hospitals: The 36th medical group (which, I believe, is within Andersen AFB), and Naval Hospital

Guam. I was unable to find out much about these facilities; only that they exist. At the present time, Guam has better medical facilities than the Commonwealth has, but it requires a flight down there. Tinian is right next door, and local patients could be evacuated by helicopter if need be.

There is a U.S. military hospital in Hawaii, and another in Japan. Having a new hospital on Tinian could be a great resource, especially since the situation in the South China Sea is percolating. God only knows what will happen out there.

Anyhow, the Dynasty seems to be finished as a casino (unless a group of brainless investors decide to pony up the \$75 million). A topnotch military hospital is just what the doctor ordered.

■ ■ ■

There has been a lot of discussion about Article 12 lately, and for good reason. Many of the locals are upset—with some justification—that the sale of land to non-NMD's would further dilute the indigenous culture. They have a point. And yet Judge Manglona recently ruled that non-NMD's have the right to vote on Article 12. This has caused an uproar in the indigenous community. If it eventually goes to a vote, it will be close.

But hang on a second. There is an "all or nothing" mindset, that is, either Article 12 remains, or it is abolished. Here's my take on this:

Ease the Article 12 restrictions for private residences, but not for commercial use. That way, a homeowner would be able to buy the land his house is on. Resorts, hotels, and other commercial establishments would still be bound by the provisions of Article 12.

There is no perfect solution to the Article 12 problem, but amending it might be possible. Just a thought.

Russ Mason
As Teo, Saipan

HUGE

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sia's nuclear arsenal while the U.S. relies on aging weapons from the Kennedy and Reagan eras. Trump's national security adviser, retired Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn, told Woodward the president-elect is convinced the United States has to modernize and spend "vast amounts of money" to maintain a position of strength.

The so-called "peace dividend" that followed the end of the Cold War in the 1990s appears to have run its course. The U.S. is headed for a major expansion of military spending, set in motion by lawmakers of both political parties and by two presidents.

The biggest fight may be between Congress and the White House about where the money will be spent first.

(c)2016 *The Orange County Register* (Santa Ana, Calif.)

2017

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his 400 votes from Rota piled by the loss of confidence at home aren't forte he could bring to the table. Raffy would be scratching his head all the way to jet ways to think through the glaring liability while junketing on our dime.

Old retirement: The new longstanding obligation is the old retirement program that is still owed some \$779 million. It went broke when governors, since 1982, simply failed to pay employer's contribution into the program.

Its bankruptcy was fast forwarded when two new ones were implemented—defined contribution and defined benefit—nearly 10 years ago. The old program was abandoned when its members moved into one of two programs. It further drained the old system of money for retirees paid for by current employees.

Most members withdrew their contributions and subsequently joined the ongoing system in place. This too drained

the old program beyond our wildest imaginings. Some have evacuated to greener pasture. Some enrolled with the U.S. Social Security program, others skipped convinced they'd get paid at age 65. Well, only contributing members could reap the benefits of SS monthly stipend.

The issue that seems to have escaped current retirement members is their monthly pension upon exiting government service. Have you looked into your future monthly income or annuity? If you were paying for real estate loan and real estate insurance or first family home, would there be enough for this and other family obligations like a family car and healthcare cost? It's time to probe the issue just so you know you understand what's coming down the pike.

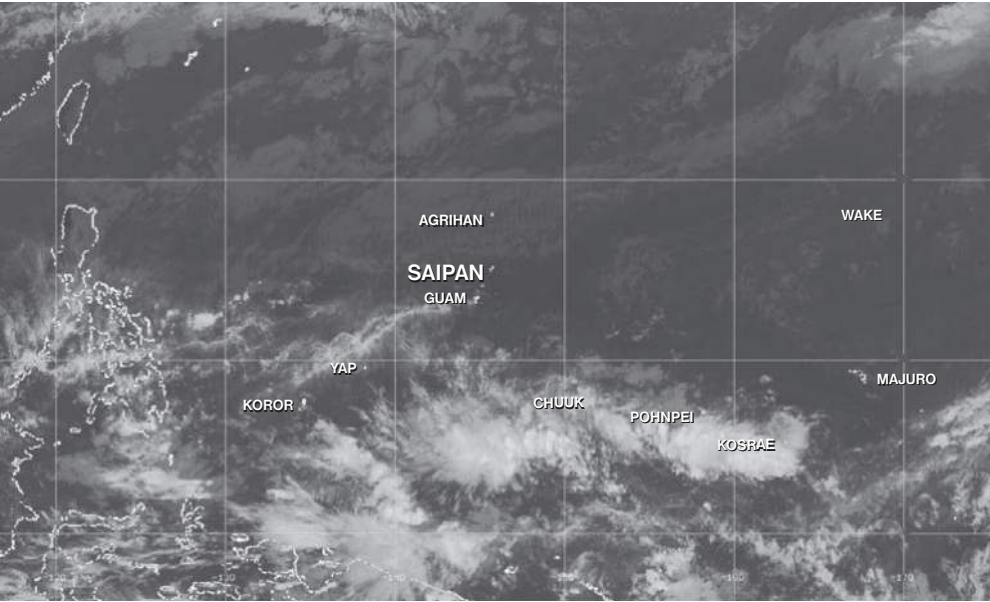
Don't forget, social security benefits are limited to contributing members only. The fallacy that you'd get paid automatically at age 65 without contribution is dead wrong. Check this issue out before it's too late. I bring these issues to you for your own benefit. Discuss them with the settlement fund and SSS.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 89° ▼ 79°	▲ 89° ▼ 79°	▲ 89° ▼ 79°	▲ 89° ▼ 79°	▲ 89° ▼ 79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:41 AM, MONDAY, JANUARY 2, 2017

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Expect mostly sunny skies across the Marianas today. Northeast to east trade-winds will prevail across the Marianas through the forecast. A dry trade-wind pattern will persist through much of the week. Satellite imagery this morning showed a shear line near Anatahan. Models show the shear line remaining there through much of the week. High pressure will build off of Asia the second half of the week which will push the shear line south and over local area Thursday. The shear line will remain over the Marianas for a few days bringing mostly cloudy skies and isolated showers Thursday through Saturday. Expect breezy conditions today with winds of 15 to 25 mph decreasing slightly tonight.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA ▼ ▲		
Guam and Rota	Mostly sunny	79 / 87 °F
Palau	Morning clouds	79 / 89 °F
Yap	Partly cloudy	80 / 86 °F
Chuuk	Strong thunderstorms	81 / 84 °F
Pohnpei	Partly sunny	80 / 84 °F
Kosrae	Morning clouds	81 / 86 °F
Majuro	Afternoon clouds	81 / 84 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE ▼ ▲		
Auckland	Morning clouds	65 / 75 °F
Beijing	Sunny	19 / 50 °F
Hong Kong	Partly cloudy	65 / 72 °F
Honolulu	Partly cloudy	64 / 76 °F
London	Partly cloudy	31 / 44 °F
Los Angeles	Partly sunny	46 / 59 °F
Manila	Morning clouds	77 / 89 °F
Melbourne	Sunny	58 / 70 °F
Miami	Morning clouds	76 / 83 °F
New York	Overcast	43 / 47 °F
Osaka	Mostly sunny	41 / 54 °F
Paris	Partly cloudy	32 / 39 °F
Pusan	Sunny	39 / 51 °F
Rome	Partly cloudy	44 / 55 °F
Salem	Morning clouds	24 / 32 °F
San Francisco	Light rain	47 / 53 °F
Seoul	Sunny	21 / 41 °F
Tokyo	Partly cloudy	36 / 53 °F
Washington, DC	Rain	46 / 51 °F

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PAPA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		
4:46 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.14 Feet
11:45 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.95 Feet
5:49 PM	LOW TIDE	1.04 Feet
10:27 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.64 Feet

	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:44 AM	5:59 PM
Wednesday	6:44 AM	6:00 PM
Thursday	6:44 AM	6:00 PM
Friday	6:45 AM	6:01 PM
Saturday	6:45 AM	6:01 PM

	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	10:14 AM	10:19 PM	-
Wednesday	10:58 AM	11:13 PM	-
Thursday	11:42 AM	-	-
Friday	-	12:08 AM	12:27 PM
Saturday	-	1:04 AM	1:14 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 5, 2016

DEPARTURES			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL297	4:20pm	7:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	2:10pm	6:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
PR1572	5:45am	7:45am	7, 4
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:35pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:35pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:55pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
LJ651	7:30am	1:10pm	Daily
7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR1571	10:25pm	4:45am+1	3, 6
UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: (United) Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju Air; HX: Hong Kong Airlines; LJ: Jin Air; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure;ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN			6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily			
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	SAIPAN TO TINIAN			SAIPAN TO ROTA		
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily			
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily	ROTA TO SAIPAN		
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily	12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily			
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily	4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily			
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily			
			5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily			



Happy New Year

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SHIP

From Page 8

neath my feet. Nearly to the bottom, the boat drops just as I let go of the ladder. The hand of a boat crewman and engineer, Petty Officer 2nd Class Scott Peterson, grabs the loop of my backpack. "Snaps in the boat," calls Petty.

As I move to the side and take a seat on the sponson I hear "Semper Fi over the side. Semper Fi in the boat." Lance Cpl. Brian Martin, our Mandarin speaking linguist, takes a seat next to me in his Marine Corps fatigues, bright orange lifejacket and helmet. With our team assembled, we depart from *Sequoia* and head toward the light on the horizon.

Black Pearl of the Pacific: A multi-mission platform

Warship might seem like an extreme term for a buoy tender whose primary mission is to aid navigation and search and rescue or pollution response, but on this patrol our mission is law enforcement and, more to the point, fighting illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing in the region. How can fish be so important?

The Western and Central Pacific Ocean is home to the "tuna belt" and supplies about 60 percent of the global tuna supply, worth an estimated \$7 billion a year. With more than 5,600 fishing vessels registered with the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, there are serious concerns about the sustainability of struggling fish stocks. Illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing presents a significant threat to the health of the fish and the multinational fishing fleets that operate in the region.

The boats we are boarding at this point in the patrol are on the high seas. We've left Guam and are now in the Philippine Sea, more than 200 miles from any shore and outside any exclusive economic zone. There are no federal, state or territorial rules here, yet lucrative and highly migratory fish stocks are present. This area is covered by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission regulations. As signatories to the WCPFC convention many Pacific nations have agreed to follow a set of prescribed rules regulating how the resource is harvested on the high seas. These rules, called conservation management measures, dictate how fishing vessels should be marked for easy identification by enforcement agencies, what and how fishermen should be logging their catch to track the overall removal of fish from the sea, and what methods fishermen must use to prevent excessive

shark or turtle fishing, to name a few. These conservation management measures constrain fishers from landing an endless catch, with the ultimate goal to establish long-term health, sustainability and shared profitability of the fish stocks.

Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing—so-called IUU fishing—harvests fish stocks without regard to any size, catch limits, bycatch or any regulation. It is largely undocumented and undermines conservation and allocation efforts in capture rates and management of the fisheries. Akin to poaching, the practice hinges on the perception that fishermen, with a minimum of effort and resources put into fishing, can reap larger rewards than by fishing legally.

"Sustainable development is the pathway to the future we want for all. It offers a framework to generate economic growth, achieve social justice, exercise environmental stewardship and strengthen governance," said Ban Ki-moon, chairman of the U.N. General Assembly.

According to the Forum Fisheries Agency, IUU fishing is prevalent in the Western and Central Pacific region because there is access to over 30 million square kilometers of species-rich EEZ waters (waters within 200 nautical miles of land) before even considering the high seas beyond 200 nautical miles, and the countries which make up the area are generally categorized as developing, often with smaller economies and correspondingly small maritime patrol forces. Australia and New Zealand are exceptions to this definition and strong partners in the effort to combat IUU fishing. This environment provides IUU fishermen with a real opportunity to illegally harvest fish and turn a profit with a low chance of being caught.

"The threat that IUU fishing poses to the sustainability of global fish stocks hurts both developed and developing nations, because fish are a common resource. That's why the U.S. Coast Guard works closely with our Pacific Island nation partners and organizations like the FFA and AFMA to enforce regulations in the remote areas of the high seas and EEZs of our partner nations," said Lt. Cmdr. W. Christian Adams, *Sequoia*'s commanding officer.

High seas fishery boardings

As we approach the fishing boat we can see the crew on deck, their eyes wide. They've just finished setting a long line and have cleaned up the deck. We commence our "horse-shoe" of the vessel. We were unable to raise the master of the vessel on the radio prior to approach, but now alongside



U.S. Coast Guardsmen assigned to the buoy tender USCGC *Sequoia* (WLB-215) assess maintenance on a road grater at the U.S. Civic Action Team's Camp Katuu in Palau Sept. 14, 2016. The equipment is used in work around Palau by members of the Armed Forces.

he beckons us aboard.

As the bow of the small boat nears the access point on the vessel, the boarding team prepares and quickly transfers to the vessel. They direct the crew forward as two boarding team members break away and do an initial safety sweep of the vessel and its spaces looking for any safety or security concerns. With that sweep complete, I board the vessel. I'm greeted by a wet deck and green flexible plastic mats underfoot. While largely clean the occasional silverfish or cockroach darts past. The smell of salt and fish permeates the air. The boarding officer and linguist walk up five steps into a tight cabin with the master of the vessel and begin going over paperwork.

They examine and document the electronics and look at the vessel and the captain's licenses. He also presents passports for the crew. The boarding team and officer Woodhouse begin to look through the holds. As is common with these vessels the ship has a mix of frozen holds and brine tanks. The crew of the vessel uses a boat hook to hoist up recent catch in the brine tank. A large tuna breaks the surface of the opaque greenish water. The huge fish glistens blue and silver under the deck lights. The boarding team advances from hold to hold, checking them all. The very forward hold has groceries, the brine tanks more fish. I look up and can see through the windows of the cabin—Martin is translating cards and documents in Mandarin for the boarding officer.

Petty Officer 3rd Class John Lietaert, a boarding team member and engineer, opens the freezer hold doors situated under the cabin. I enter the freezer hold and am greeted by an icy blast of cold air. A light frost clings to the metal racks on either side. Tuna, headed

and gutted, rest on the racks brushed with frost. Behind me are a few sharks, fins tied to the carcasses. It is illegal to possess only the fins.

"The strength of the WCPFC is that it allows member states to enforce regulations against all registered vessels. Without that, we would not be able to inspect conservation management measures on foreign-flagged fishing vessels, and IUU fishing would be even more widespread," said Lt. Cmdr. Jeffrey West, *Sequoia*'s executive officer. "These spot checks at sea help keep everyone honest and committed to a sustainable future."

We record our findings and move to the stern of the vessel. Baskets woven out of long-line adorn the rear deck where carefully placed hooks and equipment wait for use. We check the rear hold and find a few more tuna and a marlin. All these findings are presented to the boarding officer who checks them against the captain's catch log.

Meanwhile, our AFMA shiprider discusses conditions aboard the vessel with the crew. This crew is Indonesian. Officer Woodhouse is from Darwin in the northern territory of Australia but she learned Indonesian as a child working alongside her father at sailboat races. This crew is happy; they have rice three times a day with fish and vegetables. They said they are paid well and although they may spend months aboard the vessel they are pleased to send money home to their families and say they are paid better fishing than they would be in jobs back in Indonesia.

Fish for the future

Once the report of the boarding is filled out the Coast Guard keeps a copy, they provide a copy to the master of the vessel and also forward a copy to the flag state of the vessel

for action and the WCPFC concurrently. This ensures the vessel's flag state is notified of a Coast Guard boarding and, in this instance, notifies them of potential violations that were discovered. Ultimately it is the flag state's responsibility to act on the violations and impose any fines or other measures.

Still, fines imposed by a vessel's flag state may not be enough to prevent IUU in an environment with limited enforcement resources and high demand for product. The World Bank's 2013 report via the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations says we can expect to feed a global population of more than 9 billion by 2050.

Further it states, "A relatively unappreciated, yet promising, fact is that fish can play a major role in satisfying the palates of the world's growing middle income group while also meeting the food security needs of the poorest. Already, fish represents 16 percent of all animal protein consumed globally, and this proportion of the world's food basket is likely to increase as consumers with rising incomes seek higher-value seafood and as aquaculture steps up to meet increasing demand."

In a 2013 WCPFC report, the Marine Resources Assessment Group estimated 21 to 46 percent of the fish species harvested in the Western and Central Pacific are captured via IUU fishing. This represents up to a \$1.5-billion annual loss in revenue for the region. Worldwide, MRAG suggests the proportion of specifically IUU tuna captured hovers around 10 percent due to small amounts of unreported fishing, which are generally associated with large volume catches, noted in their 2008 report "Global Extent of Illegal Fishing."

It for this reason, to have fish for the future, that the Coast

Guard's continued patrols of the Pacific with support from the U.S. Navy and our partner nations are so critical.

"We are helping to ensure the continued sustainability of these nations' most valuable natural resource. Island nations like Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia have limited maritime law enforcement resources; embarking shipriders from various partner countries enables robust law enforcement in the most remote corners of their EEZs," said Lt. j.g. Charles Totten, *Sequoia*'s operations officer.

In addition to patrols by Coast Guard cutters with embarked shipriders, the Coast Guard operates a combined effort with the U.S. Navy dubbed the Oceania Maritime Security Initiative or OMSI within the Pacific region. Using U.S. Navy surface assets that routinely transit the area as a platform of opportunity, Coast Guard personnel deployed aboard query and board fishing vessels in the region. The goal of this initiative is to project a U.S. presence in the area with respect to theater security cooperation, fisheries enforcement, as well as to increase interoperability between both military services. This operation represents a changing dynamic in modern maritime warfare and strategy. The first deployment of Coast Guard personnel to warships for this purpose occurred in 2009 and continues on average once a quarter to this day.

Stewardship and the continuing mission

It's been nearly three hours since we set LE Phase 1 aboard *Sequoia* to begin this process and we're now boarding complete. As I sit on the rail of the ship I can see squid grab the small fish attracted to the lights of the fishing vessel. They dart at high speed leaving only a shower of silvery scales as evidence of their catch. The fishermen smile when they notice me watching the squid intently and motion that they taste good.

Woodhouse has taught me to say goodbye, thank you and fish well in Indonesian. As the boarding officer hands over the boarding report form I call, "*Selamat tinggal, terima kasih, ikan baik!*" They smile and wave goodbye. We load up into the small boat and return to *Sequoia*.

All told we'll patrol more than 3,970 miles over 25 days and conduct 14 at-sea boardings. Our efforts resulted in the reporting of 11 potential WCPFC violations to the applicable flag states for further investigation and enforcement. In a few months, the crew will do it again, to ensure fish for the future.

Business

Globalization took hits in 2016; Will 2017 lead to more blows?

LONDON (AP)—Globalization, the path that the world economy has largely followed for decades, took some hefty blows in 2016.

The election of Donald Trump as U.S. president and Britain's decision to leave the European Union have raised questions over the future of tariff-free trade and companies' freedom to move production to lower-cost countries.

Borders are back in vogue. Economic nationalism is paying political dividends.

"We want our country back" was the rallying cry of those backing Brexit, a sound bite that had echoes in Trump's "Make America great again."

The rise of Trump and the triumph of Brexit had their roots in the global financial crisis of 2008. Eight years later, the world economy has still not yet fully gotten past that shock to its confidence—people are nervous, some are angry, and many are seeking novel solutions to their problems. Next year, there's scope for more uncertainty with elections in France and Germany.

Here's a look at the year's top business stories for 2016:

BREXIT SHOCK

In what was a sign of things to come, Britain voted to leave the EU in a referendum in June. The decision came as a surprise—certainly to bookmakers and many pollsters who had consistently given the "remain" side the edge—and means Britain has to redefine itself after 43 years of EU membership. David Cameron resigned as prime minister after the vote and the new Conservative government led by Theresa May is planning to trigger the formal process by which Britain exits the EU early next year. There are many shades of potential Brexit, from an outright divorce that could put up tariffs on goods and services, to a more amicable parting that sees many of the current trading arrangements kept in place. The pound's fall to a 31-year low below \$1.20 at one point is testament to that uncertainty.

TRUMP CARD

Pollsters and bookmakers got it wrong again a few months later when Trump defeated Hillary Clinton in the U.S. presidential election. Whether he translates his "America

First" platform into action following his inauguration in January will help shape the global economy for the next four years at least. Trump has railed against long-standing trading agreements, including the North American Free Trade Agreement, and vowed to punish China for the way it devalues its currency against the dollar and to tax U.S. firms that move jobs overseas. He has also laid out plans to bring America's creaking infrastructure up to 21st-century standards, a new spending pitch that has the potential to boost jobs—but which could also lay the seeds of higher inflation.

MARKETS MARCH ON

Trump's victory did not cause the bottom to fall out of the stock market rally that's been largely in place since 2009, when the world economy started to first claw out of its deepest recession since World War II. In fact, both the Dow and the S&P 500 rallied to hit a series of record highs. Stocks have also benefited from a raft of big corporate deals this year—executives are seeing takeovers as a fast way to generate growth in a low-growth global economy disrupted by non-stop technological innovations. Notable deals in 2016 included the \$85 billion merger of Time Warner and AT&T and the \$57 billion takeover of Monsanto by Germany medicine and farm-chemical maker Bayer. The \$100 billion takeover of SABMiller by Budweiser maker Anheuser-Busch In-Bev was also completed.

FED FINALLY DELIVERS

During his campaign, Trump said Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen should be "ashamed" of the way she's run policy since taking the helm in 2014. A year ago, the Fed appeared set to follow up its first interest rate hike in nearly a decade with three or four more in 2016. But there was no move until Dec. 14, when the U.S. central bank raised its main interest rate to a range between 0.5 percent and 0.75 percent. Many factors explained its hesitation to raise rates, including unease over the global impact of China's economic slowdown and uncertainty surrounding the U.S. election. But with the U.S. economy continuing

to do better than most developed countries—with unemployment below 5 percent and inflation edging up—the Fed finally delivered another hike. The markets are predicting another three or four increases next year. Those expectations have helped the dollar rally, especially as other major central banks persevere with super-loose monetary policies to breathe life into their economies.

CHINA'S KEY ROLE

As the world's second-largest economy, China is playing a bigger role in the functioning of the global economy. Nowhere was that more evident than in the early months of 2016, when jitters over the scale of the slowdown in China caused wild swings in financial markets. Stocks took a pounding while commodities tanked, with oil skidding to 13-year lows, as traders factored in lower demand from resource-hungry China. The slump in commodities weighed heavily on economies like Australia that are big exporters of raw materials. China's economy is ending the year in relatively good health as authorities try to pivot the economy's focus from manufacturing to more consumer spending. But Trump's promises to take a tough stance in trade will be of concern to Beijing.

OPEC TAKES A STAND

For the first time since December 2008, at the height of the financial crisis, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries cut its production levels in 2016. November's cut, soon followed by more cuts by non-OPEC countries like Russia, helped push oil prices sharply higher. At over \$50 a barrel, benchmark New York crude is now well above the near-13-year lows around \$30 recorded at the start of 2016, when investors focused on high supply and concerns over an economic slowdown. The oil slump helped put several crude-producing countries into severe recessions, including Brazil and Venezuela, and even saw wealthy Saudi Arabia cut back on spending. The question for 2017 is whether OPEC—and non-OPEC—countries can deliver on their production promises. If they do and higher oil prices stick, that will push up inflation in the global economy.

Nation

Obama has few options to protect young immigrants

WASHINGTON (AP)—Barack Obama is under pressure during his final weeks as president to do something—anything—to secure the future of hundreds of thousands of immigrants brought to the U.S. as children who could face deportation under the Trump administration. His options appear few.

At least 50 congressional Democrats are pushing Obama to take the rare if not unprecedented step of granting pardons to the young immigrants who have stepped forward to identify themselves in exchange for a promise that they'd be safe from deportation. The White House, though, has repeatedly ruled that out.

Several Republican lawmakers are crafting legislative proposals to solidify the place of these immigrants, sometimes called Dreamers, before Donald Trump takes office Jan. 20. Similar efforts have repeatedly failed, even with Democratic majorities in both chambers of Congress, so the likelihood of a legislative Hail Mary isn't great.

That leaves more than 741,000 immigrants wondering what's next.

Trump's plans for Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program are



In this July 24, 2013, file photo, demonstrators rally in front of the White House in Washington, in favor of immigration reform.

unclear. As a candidate, he pledged an immediate end to what he called an "illegal executive amnesty." But as the president-elect, he has softened that stance.

"We're going to work something out that's going to make people happy and proud," Trump told Time magazine last month. "They got brought here at a very young age, they've worked here, they've gone to school here. Some were good students. Some have wonderful jobs. And they're in never-never land because they don't know what's going to happen."

Obama's program allowed young immigrants who came to the United States as children to come forward and go

through background checks in exchange for a promise they would be safe from deportation and allowed to apply for work permits. They must reapply for the program and work permits every two years.

While the government promised approved immigrants that they wouldn't face deportation, the program does not provide a legal immigration status. Under Trump, their personal information, and that of some relatives, could soon be readily accessible to immigration enforcement officials.

When Obama announced the plan in 2012, he said he was taking executive action because Congress hadn't acted.

1 of Chicago's bloodiest years ends with 762 homicides

CHICAGO (AP)—One of the most violent years in Chicago history ended with a sobering tally: 762 homicides, the most in two decades in the city and more than New York and Los Angeles combined.

The nation's third largest city also saw 1,100 more shooting incidents last year than it did in 2015, according to data released Sunday by the Chicago Police Department. The statistics underline a story of bloodshed that has put Chicago at the center of a national dialogue about gun violence.

The numbers are staggering, even for those who followed the steady news accounts of weekends ending with dozens of shootings and monthly death tolls that hadn't been seen in years. The increase in homicides compared to 2015, when 485 were reported, is the largest spike in 60 years.

Police and city officials

have lamented the flood of illegal guns into the city, and the crime statistics appeared to support their claims: Police recovered 8,300 illegal guns in 2016, a 20 percent increase from the previous year.

Chicago Police Superintendent Eddie Johnson said during a news conference Sunday that Chicago is among many U.S. cities that have seen a spike in violence, including in attacks on police. He said anger at police, including in the wake of video released that showed a white Chicago officer shooting a black teenager 16 times, has left criminals "emboldened" to violent crimes.

He also said it's becoming clearer to criminals that they have little to fear from the criminal justice system.

"In Chicago, we just don't have a deterrent to pick up a gun," he said. "Any time a guy stealing a loaf of bread spends more time pre-trial

in jail than a gun offender, something is wrong."

Johnson, who has for months complained about Illinois' lax gun laws, said he thinks more and more gang members are arming themselves because the price for being caught is small compared to other large cities. He said gang members he has spoken to consider the court system "a joke."

The bulk of the deaths and shooting incidents, which jumped from 2,426 in 2015 to 3,550 last year, occurred in only five of the city's 22 police districts on the city's South and West sides, all poor and predominantly black areas where gangs are most active.

Police said the shootings in those areas generally weren't random, with more than 80 percent of the victims having previously been identified by police as more susceptible because of their gang ties or past arrests.

Asia

N. Korea's leader hints of long-range missile test launch

TOKYO (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un hinted Sunday that Pyongyang may ring in the new year with another bang—the test-launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile.

In his annual New Year's address, Kim said that after testing what the North claims was its first hydrogen bomb last year, preparations for launching an intercontinental ballistic missile have "reached the final stage."

Kim did not explicitly say an ICBM test, which if successful would be a big step forward for the North, was imminent. But he has a birthday coming up on Jan. 8, and last year Pyongyang conducted a nuclear test on Jan. 6.

Kim threatened in the address to boost his country's military capabilities further unless the U.S. ends war games with rival South Korea. But he also said efforts must be made to defuse the possibility of another Korean war and stressed the importance of building the economy under a five-year plan announced in May.

"The political and military position of socialism should be further cemented as an invinci-



A South Korean man watches North Korean leader Kim Jong Un delivering his New Year's speech on a TV news program shown at the Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea, Sunday, Jan. 1, 2017.

ble fortress," Kim said, according to an outline of the speech carried by the North's official Korean Central News Agency. "We should resolutely smash the enemies' despicable and vicious moves to dampen the pure and ardent desire of the people for the party and estrange the people from it."

The address was shown on television mixing video with

Kim speaking and stretches of audio only, as still photos were broadcast. It was less than 30 minutes long.

South Korea's Unification Ministry said in a statement that it "strongly condemns" Kim's threat to proceed with a test launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile and strengthen North Korea's nuclear-strike capabilities. It said that the

international community will not tolerate North Korean efforts to develop nuclear weapons, and that the North will only face tougher sanctions and pressure if it continues to go down that path.

Under Kim, who rose to power following his father's death in 2011, North Korea has seen steady progress in its nuclear and missile programs,

including two nuclear tests in 2016. It recently claimed a series of technical breakthroughs in its goal of developing a long-range nuclear missile capable of reaching the continental United States.

U.N. resolutions call for an end to North Korea's nuclear and missile tests. Kim appears uninterested in complying.

The year ahead could be a tumultuous one in north Asia, with Donald Trump set to become the new U.S. president on Jan. 20, and South Korea's politics in disarray over a scandal that brought the impeachment of President Park Geun-hye.

Kim indicated there will be no change in the North's nuclear policy unless Washington makes a big, conciliatory first move, which, even with the advent of Trump, would seem unlikely.

Trump has somewhat offhandedly suggested he would be willing to meet with Kim—

but not in North Korea—and has at the same time indicated that he wants China to exert significantly more control over Pyongyang to get it to abandon its nuclear program.

Demands from Pyongyang for the U.S. to stop its joint military exercises with the South and enter into negotiations to sign a peace treaty formally ending the 1950-53 Korean War have fallen on deaf ears in Washington for years amid an atmosphere of distrust and deepening hostility.

Kim is in his early 30s and is now in his fifth year as the North's leader.

His New Year addresses, and a marathon speech at the May ruling party congress, are a contrast with his enigmatic father, Kim Jong Il, who rarely spoke in public. But he has yet to meet a foreign head of state or travel outside of North Korea since assuming power, and remains one the world's most mysterious national leaders.

Impeached S. Korean leader rejects accusations against her

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Impeached South Korean President Park Geun-hye vehemently rejected accusations Sunday that she conspired with a longtime friend to extort money and favors from companies, accusing her opponents of framing her.

In a meeting with a selected group of reporters, Park denied that she gave her jailed friend, Choi Soon-sil, extraordinary sway over government decisions and also refuted allegations that her administration blacklisted thousands of artists for their political beliefs, South Korea's Yonhap News Agency reported.

It was the first time Park spoke to the media since South Korea's opposition-controlled

parliament voted on Dec. 9 to impeach her over the scandal, which has seen millions of people protest in recent weeks.

In her meeting with reporters, Park denied the accusations, saying she was "totally framed," according to Yonhap.

"The matter is under investigation, so I can't make detailed explanations that might put both sides in trouble, but what I can assure you is that I have never conspired with anyone or did anything to give favors to someone, not even by a bit," Yonhap quoted Park as saying.

The Constitutional Court has up to six months to decide whether Park should be permanently removed from office or be reinstated.

On Friday, the court said Park cannot be forced to testify at her impeachment trial, which is about to enter its argument phase.

Park's downfall came after state prosecutors in November accused her of colluding with her friend to bully companies into giving tens of millions of dollars to foundations controlled by Choi and also allowing Choi to interfere with government decisions from the shadows.

They have now handed over the investigation to a special prosecution team that has been focusing on proving bribery suspicions between Park and the Samsung Group, which is suspected of sponsoring Choi in exchange for

government favors.

A former health ministry official was arrested on Saturday over suspicions that he forced the National Pension Service to support a merger between two Samsung affiliates last year.

The deal shaved the fund's stake in one of the companies by an estimated hundreds of millions of dollars, but allowed Samsung scion Lee Jae-yong to promote a father-to-son succession of leadership and increase the group's corporate wealth.

Investigators are trying to confirm whether Park instructed government officials to help the merger go through and then had them press Samsung to provide Choi money and favors.

17 still missing after Indonesia boat fire kills 23

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—A search resumed Monday for 17 people reported missing after a ferry fire off the coast of Indonesia's capital that left at least 23 dead, officials said.

The victims died Sunday when the vessel, Zahro Express, carrying more than 260 people from a port near Jakarta to Tidung, a resort island in the Kepulauan Seribu chain, caught fire, officials said. Most of the passengers were Indonesians celebrating

the New Year holiday, according to local media reports.

Dito, an official from the Jakarta Search and Rescue Agency, said at least five ships and a number of speedboats and rubber boats were deployed in the search.

Of the 224 passengers who were rescued, 32 were being treated at three hospitals, said Dito, who uses a single name.

Seply Madreta, an official from the Jakarta Disaster Mitigation Agency, said the fire gutted about half the vessel,

and that 23 bodies had been recovered.

Twenty bodies that were found inside the vessel were burned beyond recognition and were transferred to a police hospital for identification, said Col. Umar Shahab of the Jakarta police health department.

Witnesses told MetroTV that the fire broke out about 15 minutes after the ferry left the port of Muara Angke.

The cause of the fire was not immediately clear. Some passengers told local media

that they first saw smoke coming from the ferry's engine.

The director for sea transportation, Tonny Budiono, said the initial suspicion was that the fire was "most probably caused by a short circuit in the engine room."

He told a news conference the short circuit might have led to the fuel tank exploding.

TV footage showed people in the water with the ferry in flames in the background. A woman in the water can be heard screaming "Ya Allah! Ya Allah!" or "Oh God! Oh God!"

ASIAN BRIEFS

Duterte links bombing that wounded dozens to illegal drugs

MANILA, Philippines

(AP)—President Rodrigo Duterte on Thursday blamed a drug feud for a bombing that wounded at least 32 people watching an amateur boxing match in the central Philippines. He did not explain the basis for his suspicions, but he has led a brutal crackdown against illegal drugs since he took office in June. More than 6,000 drug suspects have been killed, and thousands more arrested, raising concerns of injustices and extrajudicial killings. Two of three 81mm mortar rounds were remotely set off by cellphone late Wednesday as people watched a boxing match in Leyte province's Hilongos town as part of its annual Catholic fiesta celebrations, said Senior Inspector Jenyzen Enciso, the provincial police spokeswoman. At least 10 are children, ages 7 to 15. The military said in a statement, citing a police assessment, that a drug suspect arrested by Hilongos policemen last October may have retaliated by carrying out the bombings.

Kong's government has started legal proceedings against the four recently elected legislators, who altered their swearing-in oaths to stage apparent protests against the Chinese government in Beijing. In November, the Hong Kong government won a similar challenge against two newly elected separatist lawmakers after Beijing said that anyone who doesn't properly take their oath should be barred from office. Beijing's intervention fueled growing concern among many Hong Kong residents that China's government is eroding the city's wide autonomy.

Bangladesh police say ruling party lawmaker shot dead

NEW DELHI (AP)—A lawmaker from Bangladesh's ruling party has been shot dead by masked men in northern Bangladesh, police said Sunday. Manzurul Islam Liton, a national legislator from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League party, was shot at his home in Gaibandha district on Saturday evening, said local police chief Atiar Rahman. Family members told police that four masked men arrived on motorcycles, entered the house and shot Liton at close range before running away, Rahman said. He was declared dead by doctors at a local hospital. Police didn't immediately give further details. Liton had been vocal against religious extremism in Bangladesh.

Thousands in Hong Kong march for pro-democracy lawmakers

HONG KONG (AP)—Nearly 5,000 people in Hong Kong marched in a New Year's Day protest against an attempt by the semi-autonomous Chinese city's government to disqualify four pro-democracy lawmakers, police said. Hong

World

Police struggle in hunt for gunman in Istanbul slayings

ISTANBUL (AP)—Turkish police struggled Monday to track down a gunman who attacked New Year's Eve revelers at a popular Istanbul nightclub, killing at least 39 people, most of them foreigners. Close to 70 more were wounded.

The attacker, armed with a long-barreled weapon, killed a policeman and a civilian outside the Reina club around 1:15 a.m. before entering and firing at people partying inside, Istanbul Gov. Vasip Sahin said.

"Unfortunately, (he) rained bullets in a very cruel and merciless way on innocent people who were there to celebrate New Year's and have fun," Sahin told reporters.

Nearly two-thirds of the people killed were foreigners, many from the Middle East, Turkey's state-run Anadolu Agency said. It said the bodies of 25 foreign nationals killed in the attack would be delivered to their families Monday.

Countries from India to Belgium reported their citizens among the casualties.

An estimated 600 people were celebrating inside the club, which is frequented by famous locals, including singers, actors and sports stars. Several shocked revelers were seen fleeing the scene after the shooting and the music fell silent.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for what authorities immediately called a terrorist attack. Turkish officials did not comment on the possible identity or motives of the gunman.

The mass shooting followed more than 30 violent acts over the past year in Turkey, which is a member of the NATO alliance and a partner in the U.S.-led coalition fighting against the Islamic State group in Syria and Iraq. The country endured multiple bombings in 2016, including three in Istanbul alone that authorities



Turkish police officers block the road leading to the scene of an attack in Istanbul, early Sunday, Jan. 1, 2017.

blamed on IS, a failed coup attempt in July and renewed conflict with Kurdish rebels in the southeast.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan vehemently condemned "the terror attack in Istanbul's Ortakoy neighborhood in the first hours of 2017" and offered condolences for those who lost their lives, including the "foreign guests."

Among the dead were an 18-year-old Israeli woman, three Indians, three Lebanese, a woman with dual French-

Tunisian citizenship and her Tunisian husband, two Jordanians, a Belgian national, a Kuwaiti citizen and a Canadian, according to those countries' governments and a diplomat. Jordan's Foreign Ministry earlier said three of its citizens had been killed, but revised that, saying there was confusion over the nationality of one victim.

A U.S. State Department official, who spoke only on condition of anonymity, said one American man was among

those wounded. Turkey's minister for family and social policies, Fatma Betul Sayan Kaya, said citizens of Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Lebanon and Libya were among those injured.

Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu said the gunman, who had not been identified, remained at large. "Our security forces have started the necessary operations. God willing, he will be caught in a short period of time," Soylu said.

Private NTV news channel said the assailant was wearing

a Santa Claus outfit when he entered the upscale nightclub on the shore of the Bosphorus straight, on the European side of the city—a claim Prime Minister Binali Yildirim denied.

Security camera footage obtained by The Associated Press from Haberturk newspaper shows what appears to be a man dressed in black and carrying a backpack as he shoots down a police officer outside the nightclub. Footage taken by a different camera inside Reina shows a figure wearing different clothes and what could be a Santa Claus hat.

Yildirim said the attacker left a gun at the club and escaped by "taking advantage of the chaos" that ensued. Some customers reportedly jumped into the waters of the Bosphorus to escape the attack.

Mehmet Dag, 22, said he was passing by the club when he saw a man shoot at a police officer and a bystander. He said the attacker then targeted security guards, gunning them down and entering the club.

"Once he went in, we don't know what happened. There were gun sounds, and after two minutes the sound of an explosion," Dag said.

Turkish media said the local victims included a 22-year-old police officer and a 47-year-old travel agent, both of whom were shot outside the club.

Hundreds flee fighting near Syria's capital despite truce

BEIRUT (AP)—Hundreds of civilians fled a mountainous region outside the Syrian capital on Sunday, where government forces were battling several insurgent groups, including an al-Qaida-linked outfit excluded from a recent nationwide cease-fire.

The Syrian military said some 1,300 people fled the Barada Valley region since Saturday. The region has been the target of days of airstrikes and shelling despite the truce, which was brokered by Russia and Turkey and appears to be holding in other parts of the country, despite some reports of fighting.

The truce went into effect early Friday, and the government and the opposition are expected to meet for talks in Kazakhstan later this month. Russia, a key military ally of Syrian President Bashar Assad, and Turkey, a leading sponsor of the rebels, are acting as guarantors of the agreement, which excludes the al-Qaida-linked Fatah al-Sham Front and the Islamic State group.

On Saturday, The U.N. Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution supporting efforts by Russia and Turkey to end the nearly six-year conflict in Syria and jumpstart peace negotiations.

The military said those fleeing Barada Valley were relocated to safer areas and their names were registered by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent. Rami Abdurrahman,

who heads the opposition's Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, said there were buses in the region ready to evacuate civilians but could not confirm how many people had left.

He said the Barada Valley region is not part of the cease-fire because of the presence of Fatah al-Sham Front, formerly known as the Nusra Front.

The Barada Valley Media Center said Lebanese Hezbollah militants were firing on villages and towns in the water-rich region as Russian and government aircraft carried out raids for the 10th consecutive day Saturday. The Lebanese militant group has sent thousands of fighters to Syria to bolster Assad's forces.

The Barada Valley is the primary source of water for the capital and its surrounding region. The government assault has coincided with a severe water shortage in Damascus since Dec. 22. Images from the valley's Media Center indicate its Ain al-Fijeh spring and water processing facility have been destroyed in airstrikes. The government says rebels spoiled the water source with diesel fuel, forcing it to cut supplies to the capital.

The Observatory and the Aleppo Media Center, an activist collective, meanwhile reported government airstrikes on rebel-held villages near the northern city of Aleppo, which was recently returned to full government control.

Fed up with politics, Brazil cities swear in outsider mayors

SAO PAULO (AP)—Brazil's two biggest cities on Sunday inaugurated mayors who are political outsiders and whose victories underscored deep frustration with the political class and public corruption.

Joao Doria, a millionaire businessman who once hosted "The Apprentice Brazil," took the oath of office in the country's financial capital of Sao Paulo. He defeated an ally of the president as well as the incumbent. Evangelical bishop and senator Marcelo Crivella was also sworn in, as Rio de Janeiro's mayor. He also defeated an ally of the president.

The victories of these un-

3 men decapitated, 2 more slain in Acapulco over New Year's

ACAPULCO, Mexico (AP)—At least five people were killed over the New Year's weekend in the resort city of Acapulco, including three men found decapitated in a central neighborhood, officials said Sunday.

The three severed heads were found Saturday on a residential street on the roof of a car, with the bodies inside. The

usual candidates speak to the depth of Brazilian discontent with politics. While many Brazilians have long dismissed their politicians as corrupt, an investigation into kickbacks at the state-run oil company Petrobras has revealed graft on a scale that has shocked even the most cynical. Arrests of politicians and businessmen seem to occur every week.

In an absurd illustration of Brazil's rampant corruption, just 10 of 15 city councilmen were choosing an interim mayor for Foz de Iguacu on Sunday. The electoral court rejected the winner of the mayoral election in that city,

killings were confirmed by a law enforcement official who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Later the same day, unknown gunmen opened fire at police who were assisting at the scene of a traffic accident in a tourist quarter near the beach, killing one officer. City government spokesman

the gateway to Iguacu Falls, because he was convicted of wrongdoing in office. Only 10 councilmen can vote on Sunday because the other five have been arrested on charges of corruption. A new mayoral election will be held in the coming months.

After his swearing in, Doria, who ran on the fact that he wasn't a politician but a successful businessman, promised a "strict adherence to ethics in public management at all levels of executive power."

He also spoke to voters' concerns about mismanagement by politicians, promising a better-run, cleaner, fairer Sao Paulo for all residents—a

Jose Luis Mendez said it was not clear why the officers were attacked.

Early Sunday, a taxi driver was gunned down in his cab on a road that leads out of the city.

At least 35 people have been killed along Acapulco's touristy beach areas this year, something that rarely happened in the past, as

massive task in a city that is a symbol of the enormous inequalities found in Brazil, where a poor family might live in a hastily constructed shanty but millionaires commute by helicopter.

"I am a manager, and I will put management first for the city of Sao Paulo," he said.

Crivella faces an especially tough task in Rio, which is essentially broke and has struggled to pay police and other public servants, even as it tries to clamp down on rampant crime. Rio residents blame the economic problems on corruption, while others say the government overextended itself to host the 2016 Olympics.

drug gang violence plagues the city and the surrounding state of Guerrero.

Also Sunday, another police officer was shot dead in Atoyac de Alvarez, about 55 miles (90 kilometers) northwest of Acapulco. Municipal police reported the officer was riding a scooter when an unknown attacker approached and shot him several times in the chest.

Focus

New UN chief urges New Year's resolution: 'Put Peace First'

By EDITH M. LEDERER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Antonio Guterres took the reins of the United Nations on New Year's Day, promising to be a "bridge-builder" but facing an antagonistic incoming U.S. administration led by Donald Trump who thinks the world body's 193 member states do nothing except talk and have a good time.

The former Portuguese prime minister and U.N. refugee chief told reporters after being sworn-in as secretary-general on Dec. 12 that he will engage all governments—"and, of course, also with the next government of the United States"—and show his willingness to cooperate on "the enormous challenges that we'll be facing together."

But Trump, with his "America First" agenda, has shown little interest in multilateralism, which Guterres says is "the cornerstone" of the United Nations.

So as Guterres begins his five-year term facing conflicts from Syria and Yemen to South Sudan and Libya and global crises from terrorism to climate change, U.S. support for the United Nations remains a question mark.

And it matters because the U.S. is a veto-wielding member of the U.N. Security Council and pays 22 percent of the U.N.'s regular budget and 25 percent of its peace-keeping budget.

Immediately after the United States allowed the Security Council to condemn Israeli settlements in the West Bank on Dec. 23 in a stunning rupture with past practice, Trump warned in a tweet: "As to the U.N., things will be different after Jan. 20th," the day he takes office.

Trump followed up three days later with another tweet questioning its effectiveness. "The United Nations has such great potential but right now it is just a club for people to get together, talk and have a good time. So sad!"

John Bolton, a conservative Republican and former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said in an interview with The Associated Press that Guterres would be well advised "especially given the incoming Trump administration" to follow the model



of his predecessor, Ban Ki-moon, and do what member governments want.

If he tries to follow what Ban's predecessor, Kofi Annan, did as secretary-general and try to be the world's top diplomat and what some called "a secular pope," Bolton said, "I think especially in the Trump administration, he would run into big trouble very quickly."

Guterres has made clear that his top priority will be preventing crises and promoting peace.

In the first minute after taking over as U.N. chief on Sunday, Guterres issued an "Appeal for Peace." He urged all people in the world to make a shared New Year's resolution: "Let us resolve to put peace first."

"Let us make 2017 a year in which we all—citizens, governments, leaders—strive to overcome our differences," the new secretary-general said.

He has said there is enormous difficulty in solving conflicts, a lack of "capacity" in the international community to prevent conflicts, and the need to develop "the diplomacy for peace," which he plans to focus on.

Guterres has said he will also strive to deal with the inequalities that globalization and technological progress have helped deepen, creating joblessness and despair especially among youth.

"Today's paradox is that



Current Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, left, hugs U.N. Secretary-General designate Antonio Guterres after Guterres was sworn in at U.N. headquarters, Monday, Dec. 12, 2016, becoming the ninth U.N. chief in the body's 71-year history.

despite greater connectivity, societies are becoming more fragmented. More and more people live within their own bubbles, unable to appreciate their links with the whole human family," he said after his swearing-in.

Guterres said the values enshrined in the U.N. Charter that should define the world that today's children inherit—peace, justice, respect, human rights, tolerance and solidar-

ity—are threatened, "most often by fear."

"Our duty to the peoples we serve is to work together to move from fear of each other, to trust in each other, trust in the values that bind us, and trust in the institutions that serve and protect us," he said. "My contribution to the United Nations will be aimed at inspiring that trust."

Guterres won the U.N.'s top job after receiving high

marks from almost every diplomat for his performance in the first-ever question-and-answer sessions in the General Assembly for the 13 candidates vying to replace Ban, whose second five-year term ends at midnight on Dec. 31.

In an interview during his campaign with three journalists, Guterres said the role of secretary-general should be "an honest broker, a consensus builder" who engages as

much as possible, in many circumstances discreetly.

"It's not just to have a personal agenda, because it would be regrettable or ineffective, or to appear in the limelight. No. On the contrary, it's to act with humility to try to create the conditions for member states that are the crucial actors in any process to be able to come together and to overcome their differences," he said.

Whether the Trump administration will join Guterres and U.N. efforts to tackle what he sees as "a multiplication of new conflicts" and the myriad problems on the global agenda remains to be seen.

Trump's choice as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley who is the governor of South Carolina, has a reputation as a conciliator, which could be very useful especially in dealing with the Security Council and the four other permanent veto-wielding members—Russia, China, Britain and France, all of whom have their own national agendas.

But she will be taking instructions from the president. Richard Grenell, who served as U.S. spokesman at the U.N. during President George W. Bush's administration and has been working with Trump's transition team, downplayed the prospect that Trump will withdraw from or even disregard the United Nations.

He said in an AP interview earlier this month that Trump is talking about reforming the U.N. and other international organizations so "they live up to their ideals."

Guterres also wants to reform the United Nations to make it "nimble, efficient and effective." He said "it must focus more on delivery and less on process, more on people and less on bureaucracy," and ensure that the more than 85,000 U.N. staff working in 180 countries are being used effectively.

AP

Overdrive

2017 Kia Soul turbo boosts power over fuel economy

By **ANDY MIKONIS**
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The 2017 Kia Soul Turbo Exclaim adds another variation to the tall hatch's lineup, featuring a new 1.6-liter turbocharged engine and seven-speed dual clutch transmission. For the car spotter's guide it can be distinguished by 18-inch alloy wheels, some red trim, and chrome dual exhaust tips.

The Soul Exclaim tester wore its sporty touches well. A snappy "Inferno Red" paint job helped. It is actually a fine metallic, only discernible when the sun hits it straight on.

As its boxy shape implies, the Soul is roomy inside for its small footprint. The optional panoramic sunroof does cut into interior volume a bit, but you won't miss it. You will miss mounting points for a roof rack, however, and \$1,000 from your bank account. Leg room for the front occupants is generous, though at the expense of rear passengers if you roll too far back. In that position, there is enough room to fold down the split rear seat backs for hauling larger items. There's 18.8 cubic feet in the very back with the seats up, with a removable hard cover to keep your cargo concealed. We transported five adults for a short dinner outing, but there were some acrobatics required to find the seat belts.

Niceties on the tester such as heated rear seats are courtesy of this highest trim level, while an extra \$3,000 for the optional technology package will offer some things useful and some silly. Blind spot rear detection is useful, but the illu-



The 2017 Kia Soul Turbo Exclaim adds another variation to the tall hatch lineup.

minated rings on the speakers that you can set for "mood" lighting or to pulse with the music can be silly fun.

The instrument panel is really well-executed. The displays have nice graphics and a soothing font. Plus it all matches, unlike some of the competitors. Hard buttons and one knob for the HVAC are intuitive. You don't have to go deep into the screens for any commonly used functions.

Under the hood a 1.6-liter four-cylinder produces 201 horsepower, a jump of at least

40 from other Soul engines. It's also the only Soul to get the new seven-speed dual-clutch transmission. This type of transmission can shift more quickly, thereby saving gas by reducing wasted motion of the engine. The dual-clutch does not have the always-engaged sensation of an automatic, though, so there can be a delay when leaving a stop or a slight rollback on incline in the Soul. This powertrain is state-of-art stuff, but some American consumers have had issues with it feeling like

a cross between a manual and automatic transmission.

The turbocharger needs the engine to build up some speed before it can do its job of forcing more air in, so add in a helping of turbo lag, and this Soul can feel indecisive when accelerating.

Sport mode helps by getting the shift points more in line to where the turbo spools up, making it a bit more decisive. It also seems to keep the traction control from cutting power as readily when the tires slip.

Not singling out Kia here, but the dirty little secret of our post-turbo/small displacement world is that once you get into the turbo, your mileage plummets. Granted, the point is to have a small engine that sips fuel, or at least games the EPA test, yet have the turbo there for some extra oomph when you want it. With the Soul you are going to have to drive like you are trying not to squish a marshmallow between your foot and the accelerator to get close to EPA figures. We averaged 20.1 mpg mostly city in

NUTS & BOLTS

2017 Kia Soul Turbo Exclaim at a glance

- **Vehicle type:** FWD small wagon
- **Base price:** \$22,650
- **As tested:** \$26,770 (including \$850 destination)
- **Mpg:** 26 city, 31 highway
- **Engine:** 1.6-liter turbocharged four cylinder
- **Transmission:** seven-speed dual-clutch automatic
- **Parting shot:** Charming econobox gets a turbo punch

our week in the Soul.

It was surprising Kia got into the gasoline direct injection game early on, considering its status as a value brand. It's a technology that promises better mileage via more precise fuel delivery, but it is expensive. Maybe less so now with major players like Kia buying more of it.

Kia's powertrain technology has been impressive. The ride and handling of its vehicles not so much. However, the 2017 Soul changes that perception. It feels solid over bumps. The suspension could be a tad more compliant, but if the compromise is not leaning while cornering, we'll take it.

Overall, the turbo engine adds a fun-to-drive element in Sport mode compared with the mundane powertrains already available. Paired with the dual-clutch transmission, the Soul is as quirky and fun behind the wheel as it is on the road.

TNS

Q&A: EVAP leak could be cause of Saturn headache

By **PAUL BRAND**
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Q: I own a 2005 Saturn Ion with a 2.2-liter engine. At about 90,000 miles, the check gas cap warning light came on, and shortly thereafter, the check engine light came on as well.

I've tried a bunch of things to fix it, including: Checking and cleaning everything, buying an aftermarket cap, installing a new GM factory cap, and disconnecting the battery and allowing it to reset multiple times. None of that has helped.

I've checked online and found that hundreds of Saturn owners have had the same complaint and have

spent a lot of time and money having diagnostic work done in futile attempts to resolve this problem.

Other than the annoying, glaring check engine light, the car runs just fine.

Can you help?

A: Have you ever tried using a scan tool to identify the diagnostic fault codes triggering the light?

I found a service bulletin (PIT4943C) dated February 2014 that focuses on a small leak in the evaporative emission control system, or EVAP.

Diagnostic trouble code P0442 will set when the fuel pressure sensor indicates a smaller-than-predicted vapor pressure change in the fuel tank after the engine is shut down.

The bulletin outlines a series of tests you can perform with a GM scan tool and non-toxic smoke to pinpoint any EVAP leak. Areas to check include the purge solenoid, gas cap, canister vent solenoid and the system's quick-disconnect fittings.

Q: I have a sports car I drive from April to November. Should I change its oil before storage, or wait until spring, when I start driving it again? I've heard some folks say you should store a vehicle with clean oil, but others say you should change it in the spring to get rid of water that may have accumulated in the oil during storage.

A: I've always chosen to

change oil just prior to long-term parking over the winter. Doing so removes any soluble contaminants from the engine. As for moisture or water condensing in the lubricant, please note that as long as the engine does not experience rapid temperature changes, condensation won't be significant.

So, if you choose to not start the engine during its winter nap, don't worry about condensation. But, if you do choose to start the engine periodically, make sure you allow it to fully warm up and run long enough to evaporate any condensation that may occur.

Q: I'm getting to the age where I can afford a "fun car." I'm thinking of getting a late-model Corvette.

Here is my question: Why don't Corvette owners drive their cars in winter? Is it because the ride is so low that the cars tend to get stuck in even modest snowfalls? Are the owners protecting their investment from winter-assisted rust? Is the traction in snow is very poor?

If a person owns a Corvette, they can afford to winter in Florida and leave the car back home.

A: The answer to all your questions is yes. Poor traction, low ride height and vulnerability are all issues.

Have you ever seen what happens to cold fiberglass in a crash? It doesn't just crack; it shatters like glass. Rust isn't as big an issue because newer

Corvettes feature aluminum chassis and suspension components. However, there is still lots of steel under the chassis.

A better idea would be to drive the Corvette to Florida for the winter so you can continue to enjoy it year-round.

ABOUT THE WRITER

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Life & Style

Animation, sequels and superheroes propel box office record

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A forgetful fish, infighting superheroes and some intergalactic rebels led the North American box office in 2016, which, with an estimated \$11.2 billion in earnings to date, has become the highest grossing year of all time—slightly surpassing last year's \$11.1 billion record.

Those top three films, "Finding Dory," "Captain America: Civil War," and "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story," all had the common thread of being under the Walt Disney Studios banner, which had its own records to celebrate.

In general, the year looked like many others, with tent pole superhero pics, animated features, sequels and reboots overpowering original fare, but there was definitely something for everyone.

"Hollywood built a wild roller-coaster ride at the multiplex in 2016, with films from every genre sparking interest from a very vocal and engaged social media-savvy audience who were able to make or break some of the biggest titles of the year," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for box office tracker comScore.

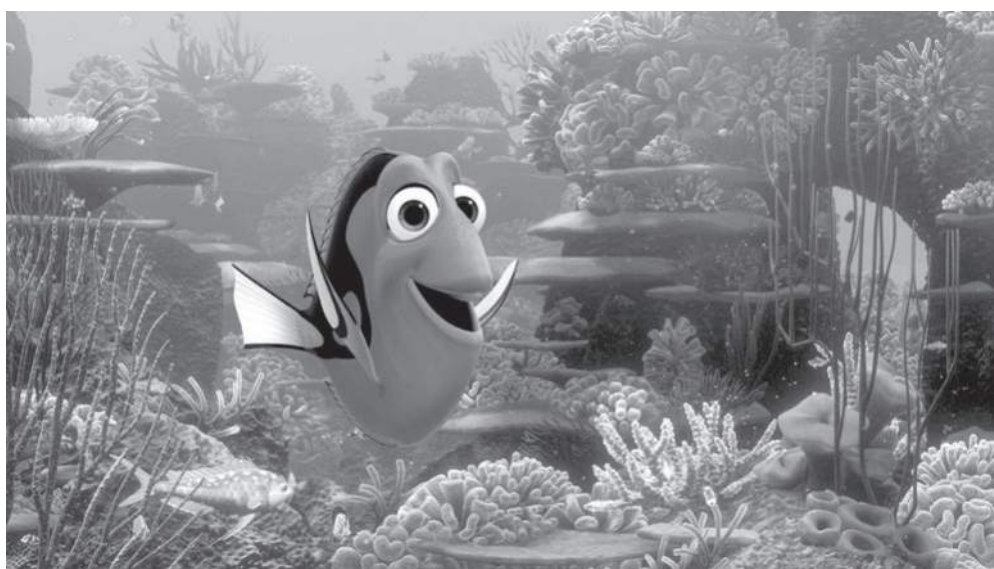
A few more notable takeaways from the record-breaking year:

DISNEY IS KING, WITH A FEW ROTTEN APPLES

With Star Wars, Marvel, Pixar, Disney Animation and a slew of live-action reboots of already beloved properties, Disney's tent pole strategy paid off big-time in 2016. The studio raked in a leading \$2.96 billion in North American grosses, with the top three spots and six out of the top 10, including "The Jungle Book," "Zootopia" and "Star Wars: The Force Awakens." As Disney's distribution chief Dave Hollis noted, each of Disney's five "brands" had a film this year that became "cultural events that transcend border and language to become true global spectacles." Disney wasn't without its own rotten tomatoes, however, with major flops like "The BFG" and "The Finest Hours." But the successes paid for the failures.

ANIMATION RULES

For the first time since 2010 with "Toy Story 3," an animated film has topped the annual box office. This year, it was another Pixar sequel, "Finding



This undated image released by Disney shows the character Dory, voiced by Ellen DeGeneres, in a scene from the animated movie "Finding Dory."

Dory," with a \$486.3 million North American tally. Universal also scored big animated hits with "The Secret Life of Pets" (No. 4 with \$368.4 million) and "Sing" (\$123.6 million after 10 days in theaters). In addition, Disney had "Zootopia" and "Moana," and DreamWorks Animation with "Trolls." Basically, animated talking animals were big (and there could even be a case that "The Jungle Book" fits in, too). "A lot of animated movies were very good this year,"

said Forbes writer Scott Mendelson. "Audiences are still seeking the better movie."

GOOD OR BAD, SUPERHEROES ARE STILL CASH COWS

Critics impact box office! Wait, no they don't! Anyone paying attention this year likely saw both of these sentiments bandied about in talking about superhero movies, but the truth is, the superhero pic still has muscles to spare and it shows. Seven out of the top 20

movies this year were either DC or Marvel Comics, and that's not even counting the fantasy sci-fi properties like "Star Wars" and "Star Trek." Even newbies like "Deadpool" and "Doctor Strange" did well, thanks to social media buzz, despite being lesser known characters. Others, like "Batman v. Superman: Dawn of Justice" and "Suicide Squad," may have taken a beating online, but still ended up profitable.

GAME OVER ON VIDEO GAME MOVIES

That's a little hyperbolic; Hollywood is going to keep trying to get the video game adaptation right, of course. But this year wasn't exactly a promising showing, with Universal's "Warcraft," one of the biggest bombs of the year, earning only \$47.2 million domestically on a \$160 million budget. The word isn't final on 20th Century Fox's "Assassin's Creed," which just came out on Dec. 21, but it doesn't look good. In fact, the best showing by a game adaptation was from an app. "The Angry Birds Movie" grossed \$107.5 million domestically.

REBOOTS AND SEQUELS AREN'T FAILSAFE

There were a few underwhelming reboots and sequels this year, both in quality and box office returns. Paramount's "Star Trek Beyond" underperformed with \$158.8 million, as did Sony's "Ghostbusters" reboot, which cost around \$144 million to produce and took in \$128.3 million in North America. "Zoolander 2" whiffed. So did "Alice Through the Looking Glass." And then there was the "Ben-Hur" remake, which cost north of \$100 million and pulled in only \$27 million.

SO WHERE'S THE ORIGINALITY?

If you want something original and massively successful and live action, it's probably going to be a comedy. There's the exception of "The Revenant," which opened in 2015 yet still placed 14th this year with \$182.8 million. But you basically have to look all the way down to No. 21 on the year-end list to find a new non-animated, non-sequel, non-adaptation—Warner Bros.' \$50 million Dwayne Johnson and Kevin Hart buddy comedy "Central Intelligence," which grossed \$127.4 million. After that, it's STX's sleeper hit "Bad Moms," which cost a lean \$20 million to produce, at No. 25 with \$113.3 million (a sequel has already been announced). There were some underwhelming attempts, too ("Allied") and all out flops ("Rules Don't Apply," "The Nice Guys"). Meanwhile, it's still early, but most of the critically praised awards films aren't exactly proving to be blockbuster hits, either. Mendelson says "La La Land" might sing its way to \$50 million, yet others, like "Moonlight," will be lucky to crack \$20 million.

Carey's New Year's show is latest mishap in the spotlight

Few singers can match the career of the multi-octave superstar Mariah Carey, the winner of five Grammys who has sold more than 200 million records worldwide.

But sometimes, life gets a little strange in the spotlight.

She cursed on television during a 2013 appearance in Central Park that aired on "Good Morning America," a performance also disrupted by a tear in the back of her dress. While singing "Always Be My Baby" on the "Today" show in 2014, she seemed to suffer from temporary voice freeze, as her mouth moved but for several seconds no sounds came out.

TV watchers also remember her wacky "ice cream cart" cameo on MTV and the sight of her needing four people to put on her shoes during a scene from the reality program "Mariah's World."

Then there was the humiliation of "Glitter," Carey's disastrous 2001 foray into film stardom, which was lambasted by the critics and public alike.

But nothing quite compares to the meltdown of New Year's Eve, a case of what could be called "Auld Lang-ziety."

A representative for Car-



Mariah Carey performs at the New Year's Eve celebration in Times Square on Saturday, Dec. 31, 2016, in New York.

ey cited technical difficulties for a disastrous appearance on "Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve" with Ryan Seacrest, which aired on ABC and was the subject of widespread mockery on social media. Commentators called the fiasco a fitting end to a traumatic year for the music industry, marked by the deaths of Prince, Da-

vid Bowie and George Michael, among others. One tweeter, referring to the 2016 presidential campaign, joked that Carey's show had been hacked by the Russians.

Carey began with a brief, flawless "Auld Lang Syne" before descending into a show business nightmare. Her mood seemed to range from frustration to resignation as

she struggled with the pre-recorded musical tracks. Telling revelers jammed into Times Square there had been no sound check for her hit song "Emotions," she lamented that "we're missing some of these vocals, but it is what it is."

"Let the audience sing," she decided as she paced the stage.

"I'm trying to be a good sport here," she said, adding her own sarcastic review of the performance. "That was ... amazing."

The next song, "We Belong Together," went no better. At times, she lowered the microphone from her mouth and the music, vocals and all, kept playing, making it clear she was lip-synching.

"Unfortunately there was nothing she could do to continue with the performance given the circumstances," Carey spokeswoman Nicole Perna said Sunday.

A representative for Dick Clark productions did not immediately return an email seeking comment.

Carey later tweeted about the night, starting with a brief profanity, throwing in a couple of sad emojis and concluding with, "Here's to making more headlines in 2017."

Ryan Seacrest gets stuck in Times Square elevator, rescued

NEW YORK (AP)—TV host Ryan Seacrest says he and about five other people got stuck in a Times Square elevator before an appearance on ABC's "Good Morning America" and were rescued by firefighters.

The host of "Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve" with Ryan Seacrest" was heading up to the crystal ball on Friday morning when the elevator got stuck. He posted short videos from the elevator on Twitter.

The group made phone calls and joked about broadcasting from the space if necessary.

About 35 minutes after Seacrest's initial post he sent a video of a grinning New York firefighter prying open the elevator doors to cheers. Seacrest and the others thanked the firefighters and walked out.

The annual show rings in the New Year among hundreds of thousands of Times Square revelers.

Vandalized Hollywood sign briefly reads 'HOLLYWeeD'

LOS ANGELES (AP)— No, Los Angeles residents, it wasn't your hangovers playing tricks on you. The Hollywood sign really did read

"HOLLYWeeD" for a few hours on New Year's Day.

Police were investigating Sunday after a prankster used giant tarps to turn two of the



AP
The Hollywood sign is seen vandalized Sunday, Jan. 1, 2017. Los Angeles residents awoke New Year's Day to find a prankster had altered the famed Hollywood sign to read "HOLLYWeeD."

ational use of marijuana, beginning in 2018.

Hikers and tourists in the hills spent the morning snapping photos of themselves in front of the altered sign before park rangers began removing the tarps.

"It's kind of cool being here at the moment," Bruce Quinn told KABC-TV. "I thought we came to see the Hollywood sign, not the 'Hollyweed' sign. But hey it's OK with me!"

While attention-grabbing, the prank was not exactly original. Forty-one years ago to the day—Jan. 1, 1976—a college student similarly altered the sign, using curtains to make it read "HOLLYWEED."

Dick Clark Productions rejects Mariah Carey's sabotage claim

NEW YORK (AP)— Dick Clark Productions is hitting back against Mariah Carey's claim it sabotaged her live performance on its "New Year's Rockin' Eve" special.

Carey's disaster during the annual New Year's Eve special in Times Square made international headlines: The superstar vocally stumbled through her short set, failing to sing for most of it despite a pre-recorded track of her songs playing in the background.

Carey was visibly upset during the performance and afterward tweeted "(expletive) happens." Her representative Nicole Perna blamed technical difficulties, and in an interview with Billboard she said Dick Clark Productions hampered Carey's performance.

"She was not winging this moment and took it very seriously," Perna told Billboard. "A shame that production set her up to fail."

Perna said Carey's earpiece wasn't working and she flagged the issue to the production team but was told it would be OK when she got on stage.

"However, that was not the case, and they were again told that her earpiece was not working," Perna said. "Instead of endeavoring to fix the issue so that Mariah could perform, they went live."

In a statement released on Sunday, the production compa-

ny called such claims "absurd."

"As the premier producer of live television events for nearly 50 years, we pride ourselves on our reputation and long-standing relationships with artists," it said. "To suggest that dcp (Dick Clark Productions), as producer of music shows including the American Music Awards, Billboard Music Awards, New Year's Rockin' Eve and Academy of Country Music Awards, would ever intentionally compromise the success of any artist is defamatory, outrageous and frankly absurd."

It said that in "very rare instances" there are technical errors that can occur with live television. It said an initial investigation, however, indicated it had no involvement in the challenges associated with Carey's performance.

"We want to be clear that we have the utmost respect for Ms. Carey as an artist and acknowledge her tremendous accomplishments in the industry," it said.

A person familiar with the production of the show who asked for anonymity to speak publicly about the incident said all of the other performers, including Gloria Estefan, rehearsed onsite for their performances and Carey was there but had a stand-in for her rehearsal, atypical for the show's performers. The person said all of the monitors were working and no technical problems were found.

iconic sign's white Os into Es sometime overnight.

The vandal, dressed in all black, was recorded by security cameras and could face a misdemeanor trespass-

ing charge, said Sgt. Robert Payan.

The person scaled a protective fence surrounding the sign above Griffith Park and then clambered up each giant

letter to drape the coverings, Payan said.

The prank may be a nod to California voters' approval in November of Proposition 64, which legalized the recre-

Bruce Willis, Demi Moore donate Idaho theater to troupe

HAILEY, Idaho (AP)—Actors Bruce Willis and Demi Moore have donated the Liberty Theatre in downtown Hailey to a local theater company.

The Idaho Statesman reports (<http://bit.ly/2ir425O>)

that the formalized gift gives the Company of Fools a secure, permanent space where the theatrical company has performed since 1996.

The couple, who are now divorced, bought the historic movie house in 1995 with the

idea of transforming it into a live-performance space. The next year, they encouraged friends Rusty Wilson and Denise Simone to relocate their theater company to Idaho to perform on the Liberty's thrust stage.

In 2013, Company of Fools merged with the Sun Valley Center for the Arts, creating the largest arts organization in Idaho.

Moore and Willis are longtime supporters of the Wood River Valley.

Kim Burrell under fire for comments about gays and lesbians

NEW YORK (AP)—Gospel singer Kim Burrell says she makes "no excuses or apologies" for a sermon at a Houston church where she referred to gays and lesbians as perverted.

A tape of Burrell preaching at the Love & Liberty Fellowship Church began circulating online. She said that "the perverted homosexual spirit, and

the spirit of delusion and confusion, it has deceived many men and women." She referred to specific homosexual acts as perverted.

Meanwhile, Burrell is scheduled to sing a duet with Pharrell next Thursday on the talk show "Ellen," where host Ellen DeGeneres is one of show business' most prominent lesbians. They are sup-

posed to sing "I See Victory" from the soundtrack of the new movie "Hidden Figures."

There was no immediate reaction from DeGeneres' show or her social media platform on Saturday.

Pharrell posted on Instagram that "I condemn hate speech of any kind," although he made no specific reference to his duet partner.

It wasn't immediately clear when Burrell gave the sermon. She spoke on Facebook Live Friday about the tape that had circulated, referring to unspecified "enemies" for spreading only a portion of her speech.

She said that she has never discriminated against gays and lesbians. "I love you and God loves you," she said. "But God hates the sin."

Secret baptism for baby is scheme that's all wet

DEAR ABBY: My niece has a 1-year-old son. Neither my niece nor the baby's father is religious, and they have chosen not to have the baby baptized. My sister, the baby's grandmother, while not wanting to impose her beliefs on the parents, comes from a generation when even couples who were not demonstrably religious usually had their baby baptized.

I know it would comfort my sister to know this ancient ceremony had been performed. Since my sister watches the little boy at her house, would it be wrong for us to organize an informal baptism -- just holy water and a couple of prayers? We don't feel we need to have an officiant of any religion present and, of course, we would not tell the baby's parents. Would this be appropriate?

MORTIFIED IN MONTANA

DEAR MORTIFIED: No, it would not. If you were sure that it would be, you wouldn't have written to me about it. My advice is not to do ANYTHING like this behind the parents' backs, because if you do, there will be hell to pay. Consider this: Not all denominations baptize their members as infants.

DEAR ABBY: Please post my message for people to be more considerate and nonjudgmental about their "help." I am a housekeeper by choice. I have office skills, massage therapy skills and many talents, but I have noticed that clients seem to

have a preconceived idea of who I am.

I am not someone who is money-driven. I am also not uneducated. I am a person who enjoys helping others, no matter what I may be doing. What I do for a living is not who I am.

I have been treated disrespectfully. People who have housekeepers—beware. We "might" be doing a sociological study on how people treat the help. Wasn't there a movie about that? Be kind to each other, people!

THE HELP

DEAR HELP: What you have experienced isn't a problem faced only by housekeepers. It is something that many service industry workers encounter all too often. Perhaps it happens because some people were never taught that inside the uniform is a person with real feelings, and that everyone deserves to be treated with respect.

DEAR ABBY: After a year together, my boyfriend recently proposed. We plan to wed in two years. During this time, he intends to move into my home so we can save for the wedding. My parents, however, are completely against our living together before we get married.

Abby, I'm 30 years old and so is my fiancé. I own my own home and my boyfriend currently rents. My parents are very traditional and may not help with the wedding if we move in together. We can't afford to pay for much if we don't do it and

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



save. On top of that, we are excited to start our lives together. Do I honor my parents' wishes or do what I feel is right for me and my fiancé?

ROCK AND A HARD PLACE

DEAR ROCK AND A HARD PLACE: You and your fiancé are both 30, which means you are well into adulthood. Don't you think it's time for you both to start becoming and thinking like independent adults? By that I mean deciding which is more important to you -- living your lives the way your parents want, or the way you want.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



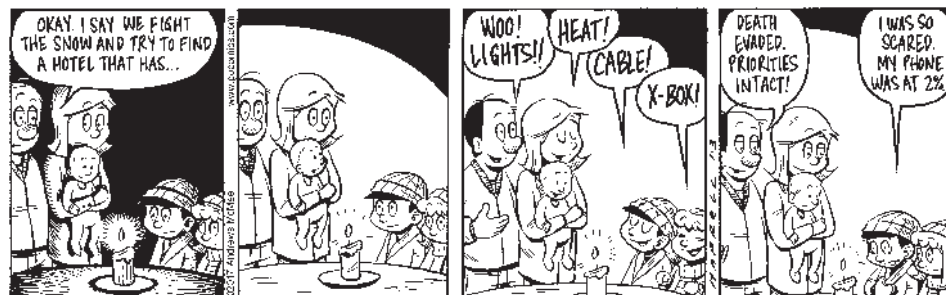
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Whirl
5 Discoverer's call
8 Queen of Carthage
12 Sea eagle
13 Feathery wrap
14 Addict
15 Doves' home
16 Serengeti grazer
18 Couple
20 Mom's sisters
21 Mouths (Lat.)
22 Ballpark fig.
23 Brief affair
26 National songs
30 —
31 Third degree?
32 Muumuu accessory
33 West Indies island

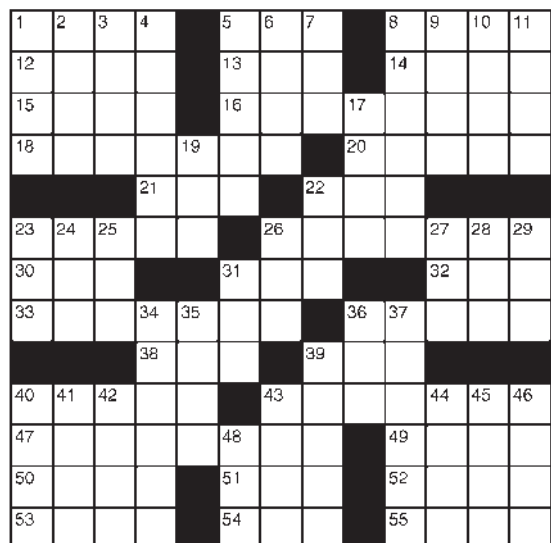
DOWN

1 Denomination
2 Ship's front
3 Division word
4 Actor
5 Sasha or Malia
6 Sharpen
7 Granola grain
8 Minnesota city
9 "The game —"
10 Gov. division
11 Raw materials
17 Right on the map
19 URL ending
22 Finale
23 Rx
24 Cariou of "Blue Bloods"
25 Follower (Suff.)
26 "Caught ya!"
27 Yalie
28 "Family Guy" daughter
29 Go astray
31 Boxer
34 Buffoons
35 TV sleuth
36 In favor of
37 Catch
39 Brick worker
40 Pealed
41 New Age singer
42 Goblet feature
43 Austen heroine
44 Nozzle site
45 Craving
46 Desires
48 Candied veggie

Solution time: 27 mins.

A	P	P	A	B	C	S	J	I	N	X
R	O	I	C	O	O	L	A	J	E	
C	U	T	L	O	O	S	E	N	E	T
S	I	A	H	S	I	H	E			
			N	T	G	O	T	I	I	C
P	O	L	E	S	T	H	E	A	T	A
U	S	E	H	S	I	S	F	L	A	N
F	I	A	I	Q	S	F	F	F	I	S
F	O	R	Y	Q	J	S	E	A		
			O	N	E	P	A	C	E	R
C	A	S	K	L	O	O	S	E	C	U
A	C	H	E	C	L	O	T	H	M	O
B	E	E	S		H	E	R	S	C	P

Friday's answer 1-3



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Eli Manning, 36; Danica McKellar, 42; Mel Gibson, 61; Victoria Principal, 67.

Happy Birthday: Express what you want to see happen. Take control and let your experiences encourage you to make the changes that will allow you to follow your dreams. Use your imagination and you will find ways to achieve what you want without going over budget. Emotional relationships will improve with a little tender loving care. Don't hesitate to be unique. Your numbers are 4, 17, 21, 26, 30, 34, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take note of what others do and say. Take care of your responsibilities quickly and without complaining or making a fuss. How you handle people will determine the way you are treated in return. Don't reveal personal information. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Give back and the rewards you receive will lead you in a new and interesting direction. Getting together with people from your past will be a reminder to enjoy life and to reach out to others more often. Romance is on the rise. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Someone you thought you could count on will disappoint you. Look for alternative ways to get what you want. A partnership based on equality can help you turn your life around. Don't make unrealistic promises or share personal information. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Partnerships will help you reach your goals faster. Collaborate with someone who is heading in a similar direction as you. Express your thoughts

and don't be afraid to do things differently. Personal improvements are encouraged. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Size up what's going on around you. Listen carefully and make a point to align yourself with people who share your point of view. Taking a new direction or changing the way you do things will help you bypass a no-win situation. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Deal with personal financial, domestic or relationship issues that require your attention. It's best to smooth things over quickly and move on to the activities and decisions that will improve your home, family and love life. A romantic gesture will pay off. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Keep an open mind and be willing to listen to suggestions, but don't feel pressured to make a hasty decision if you aren't thoroughly convinced it's in your best interest. Learn from past experience. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Bring about positive changes at home and your relationships with the people you care about will improve. A lifestyle change will improve your disposition and give you something to look forward to. Follow your intuition and your heart. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Stick close to home. Don't do anything to aggravate a situation that is out of control. Focus on your professional gains and avoid discord with peers, friends, neighbors or relatives. Now is not the time to get into a debate. **

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): It's OK to dream. As long as you stick to what you know and do your best without going over budget, you will come out a winner. Delays or hidden costs will be an issue if you aren't well prepared and organized. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Make personal changes that will help build your confidence and prepare you to bring about the changes that will improve your life. Romance is on the rise and planning something special for your loved ones will pay off. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take advantage of any opportunity that enables you to use charm, insight and past experiences to get what you want. Avoid any deal that has underlying exceptions. Find out what's expected of you before you move forward. ***

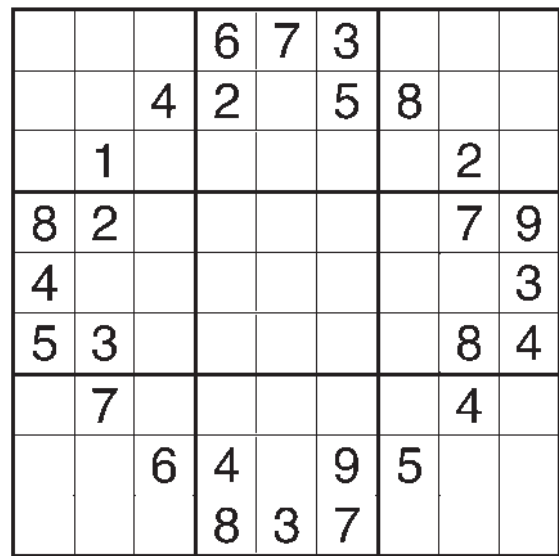
Birthday Baby: You are a dreamer, an inventor, an entrepreneur. You are compassionate and insightful.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



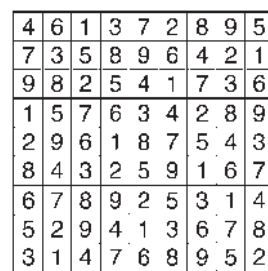
Difficulty Level ★★

1/3

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's SUDOKU Answer



WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

HAPPY TIMES IN OUR LIVES

Solution: 8 letters

S P B O A T I N G N I H S I F
S G S R R E T I R E M E N T F
W O U S L A V I T S E F S H F
E T R H M A R R I A G E A A O
N N P R O M A S T F I G M N E
E E R P V V U S V R P I T K M
E M I O E M Y A A N L T S S I
W E S L M A C S O Y E H I G T
O C E E D A R I A P A R R I P
L N R I T E S D A K S I H V A
L U L I V A H R K H E L C I R
A O O I C T E U S A G L L N T
H N N C R N N Y T I N U I G I
S N O I T A R B E L E C A M E
A A B S H O P P I N G O A L S

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Anniversaries, Announcement, Birthday, Boating, Celebrations, Christmas, Family, Festivals, Fishing, Gifts, Goals, Halloween, Hanukkah, Holidays, Hugs, Laugh, Marriage, Move, News, Occasion, Parents, Parties, Please, Prom, Retirement, Shopping, Smile, Summer, Surprise, Thanksgiving, Thrill, Time Off, Travel, Unity, Vacations

Last Friday's Answer: Dissolve

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46 or 47, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICE OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL.: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANA FISHING, INC.,)
Plaintiff,)
-v-) CIVIL ACTION
) NO. 15-0068
AMBROSIO T. OGUMORO)
Defendant)

SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to a Writ of Execution issued by the Court in this matter on March 9, 2016, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: the motor vessel Blue Marlin 1, together with the tackle and equipment listed on the Inventory attached hereto.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, January 6, 2017, at the hour of 1:30p.m. at the Rota Seaport, Rota , Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Inspection of property. The property to be sold is currently located at the Rota Seaport. It may be viewed and inspected at any time prior to the sale, by prior arrangement with Francisco M. Atalg, telephone no. 670-532-0350 or 671-797-0349. Failure to inspect the property to be sold or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

Dated, this 7th day of December, 2016:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

ROBERT T. TORRES (F0197)
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 503758 CK
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: 234-7859
Fax: 234-5750

CHARITY R. HODSON (F0487)
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 502607 CK
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 234-1615
Facsimile: (670) 234-5749

Attorneys for Petitioner Edezer Arceo

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF) **CIVIL ACTION**
) **NO. 16-0124**
VICENTE ILO LAIROPI,)
Deceased.) **NOTICE OF HEARING**
) **ON PETITION**
) **FOR DECREE OF FINAL**
) **DISTRIBUTION**

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE VICENTE ILO LAIROPI OR HIS ESTATE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that **Edezer Arceo** has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for final distribution of the Estate of Vicente Ilo Lairopi, the deceased. The attorney for Petitioner is **Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950.**

The hearing on the Petition is scheduled to be heard on January 12, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the deceased or his Estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication or the claim(s) will be baited. A copy of your claim should also be sent to **ROBERT T. TORRES Attorney at Law, at the address herein-above indicated.**

Dated this 21st day of December, 2016.

/s/ Clerk of Court
Deputy Clerk of Court

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL.: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

UNION BANK,) **CIVIL ACTION**
Plaintiff,) **NO. 94-1046**
-v-)
JUAN L. EVANGELISTA)
Defendant.)

EIGHTEENTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to a Second Amended Order issued by the Court in this matter on August 2, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Tract 22845-19 (part of original Tract 22845-REM, A.H. 31), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2083/84, the original of which was recorded on August 2, 1984, as Document No. 84-1398 at the office of the Commonwealth Recorder, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, January 27, 2017, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 27th day of December, 2016:

MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Job Vacancy Announcement

1- Accountant
Degree in Accounting.
Peachtree/QuickBooks. 3 - 5 years' experience.
Trustworthy.

1- Purchasing Manager
2-4 years' experience.
Background in writing merchandise proposals/negotiations.
Computer literate.

1- Graphic Artist
3-5 years' experience. Degree holder of Fine Arts.

1- Sales Representative
3-5 years' experience. Can work under pressure.
Microsoft/Excel literate. Must know how to write Business Proposals. Able to drive.

1- Quality Control
2-4 years' experience in Apparel Business. Good eyesight. Excellent in judgment/decision making on the finish product.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as \$30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$30
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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**Is looking for
“Admin & Accounting Assistant”**

- Must demonstrate understanding of accounting controls and principles.
- Responsible in inputting daily sales invoices, daily inventory, payment received and payment applications in Quickbooks.
- Responsible in preparing daily, weekly and monthly sales report and be able to adhere to and meet reporting deadlines.
- Responsible for accurate sales cash counting.
- Honest, trustworthy, reliable, flexible and be able to work in a fast-paced environment.
- Must demonstrate excellent Word & Excel skills.
- Have recent experience in accounting .
- On island references required with Resume.
- Police clearance required.

Open to all US eligible workers.
No phone calls please.
Fax Resume to 670-235-4763 or e-mail:
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**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.net

ANNOUNCEMENT OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

**Opening Date: December 19, 2016
Closing Date: January 6, 2017**

**Position: Accountant I
Salary: PL 32-1, \$24,889.35 to PL 32-4, \$28,807.51 per annum**
(Starting salary will be determined by the qualifications of the appointee.)

Job Location: NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with NMHC's employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI and austerity holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

Applicants are requested to submit their original application and supporting documents to the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m., **Friday, January 6, 2017, OR MAILED AND POSTMARKED** no later than January 6, 2017, to the Corporate Director, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Jocelyn C. Seman, Office Manager at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to officemanager@nmhc.gov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Corporate Director

Schorr Ranking

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 2, 2016

EVEN AS USCIS SETS 2017 CW-1 CAP AT 12,997

THE CNMI's Robbie Schorr

U14 Circuit, who

Other leaders in the region. Poi

ific Oceania nations from November last

CNM needs to tap available w

CUC: Quick DHS ignoring

price on CW-1 cap 'mind'

discloses

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Please call 235-NEWS

Hardaway powers Hawks to long-awaited OT win over Spurs



ATLANTA (AP)—Atlanta coach Mike Budenholzer finally has his first win over Gregg Popovich, his longtime former boss in San Antonio.

It took career and season-high points from Tim Hardaway Jr. and Paul Millsap, respectively, to make it happen.

Hardaway matched his career high with 29 points, including a tying 3-pointer with 3.3 seconds remaining in regulation, and the Hawks beat the Spurs 114-112 in overtime on Sunday night.

Budenholzer, in his fourth season as Atlanta's coach, had been 0-6 against San Antonio.

Millsap scored a season-high 32 points and had 13 rebounds for the Hawks, who snapped a string of 11 straight losses to San Antonio since 2010.

"It's great to get this win against a really good team and it's good to get it for Bud," Millsap said. "He's happy to have it under his belt."

Budenholzer spent 19 years with the Spurs, the last 17 as an assistant. He downplayed his personal motivation.

"You know, I was there for a long time," Budenholzer said. "A lot of things we've tried to bring here ... but at the end of the day it's a game for our players."

Popovich knew the win meant more than Budenholzer revealed.

"If we're going to lose, it's good to feel somebody on the other end was made happy," Popovich said.

It was only San Antonio's third loss in 19 road games.

Hardaway scored nine points in overtime, including the go-ahead free throw with 10.8 seconds remaining. He missed the second free throw but Millsap grabbed the rebound. Dennis Schroder also made only one of two attempts with 3.9 seconds remaining.

Kawhi Leonard missed a last-second layup for San Antonio in overtime. Leonard also had a potential winning short jumper spin around the rim before falling out to end



regulation.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 27 points and 13 rebounds to lead San Antonio.

The Hawks couldn't hold a 110-104 lead in overtime. Leonard's 3-pointer tied it at 112-all.

Raptors 123, Lakers 114

In Los Angeles, Kyle Lowry scored 20 of his season-high

41 points in the fourth quarter as the Raptors held on to stop a two-game losing streak with the victory over Los Angeles.

Lowry also had nine rebounds and seven assists while DeMar DeRozan scored 31 points in another big game in his hometown as the Atlantic Division-leading Raptors got back in winning form on the fifth stop of their six-game trip.

Nick Young hit seven 3-pointers and scored 26 points for the Lakers. They emerged from a miserable December with their 15th loss in 17 games.

Trail Blazers 95, Timberwolves 89

In Minneapolis, C.J. McCollum scored a career-high 43 points as Portland overcame a 14-point first-half deficit to

beat Minnesota. Mason Plumlee had 18 points and eight rebounds for the Blazers. They were without star point guard Damian Lillard for the fourth straight game because of a sprained left ankle. McCollum made 16 of 25 shots, including a 30-foot 3-pointer with just over 2:30 to play to put the game out of reach.

Andrew Wiggins scored 24 points for the Timberwolves.

Pistons 107, Heat 98

In Miami, Reggie Jackson scored 27 points and Andre Drummond finished with 25

points and 18 rebounds as Detroit wore down depleted Miami.

Kentavious Caldwell-Pope added 23 points for Detroit.

James Johnson scored 20 points and Wayne Ellington had 18 for Miami. The Heat were without what could have been a starting lineup — Goran Dragic (back), Dion Waiters (groin), Justise Winslow (shoulder), Josh McRoberts (foot) and Hassan Whiteside (eye).

Pacers 117, Magic 104

In Indianapolis, Myles Turner had 23 points and 12 rebounds to lead Indiana past Orlando Magic on Sunday.

Paul George added 19 points for the Pacers. They have won two straight after a season-worst four-game losing streak. Nikola Vucevic had 18 points and 11 rebounds for Orlando.

Petra Kvitova released from hospital after knife attack

PRAGUE (AP)—Petra Kvitova says she's determined to play tennis again—no matter what that involves after a knife-wielding intruder attacked her inside her home and injured her playing hand.

The two-time Wimbledon champion was released from hospital on Friday, three days after she was operated on following injuries suffered in the attack in the town of Prostějov.

With a big bandage covering her left hand and forearm, Kvitova said she was told by the surgeon who operated on her in a specialized clinic in the northern town of Vysoke nad Jizerou on Tuesday that her recovery is "looking good and without complications."

"I feel better day by day," she told reporters in Prague.

"Yesterday morning during a session (with) the doctor, I was able to move the fingers on my left hand which I think ... was the greatest Christmas present I could have wished for."

Kvitova thanked other players, fans, her family, team and doctors for messages of support she had received.

"I never received so many (supportive) messages in my life at a moment," she said. "I really appreciate that."

Martina Navratilova was among those who wished Kvitova "a speedy recovery."

"We can't wait to see you back on court again," the tennis great tweeted.

Kvitova sustained damage to the tendons in her left hand, along with injuries



Czech Republic's tennis player Petra Kvitova holds a statement for media in Prague, Czech Republic, Friday, Dec. 23, 2016.

to all five fingers and two nerves.

Doctors estimate it will take her about six months to return to tennis.

Kvitova vowed to come back, sooner or later.

"I don't care about how much time it takes, three months, six months or a year," she said. "But that's for sure I want to return one day and I'll do all I can to make that happen. I had no doubt about my return to the tennis circuit for a second."

Kvitova won Wimbledon in 2011 and 2014. She reached a career-high ranking of No. 2 in 2011, but finished the 2016 season as No. 11.

Kvitova didn't take questions but said she didn't want to look back and talk about Tuesday's incident. The attacker is still at large.

Former No. 1 Ana Ivanovic retires from tennis at 29

LONDON (AP)—Ana Ivanovic retired from tennis at age 29 Wednesday, ending a career in which she was ranked No. 1 in 2008 but can no longer play at the highest level because of injuries.

In a live broadcast on Facebook, Ivanovic said "it was a difficult decision, but there is so much to celebrate." The Serb won 15 tour titles, including the 2008 French Open, and is now ranked No. 63.

"It's been well-known that I've been hampered by inju-

ries. ... I can only play if I can perform up to my own high standards and I can no longer do that," she said. "So it's time to move on."

Ivanovic became a UNICEF national ambassador for Serbia in 2007 and says that position will figure in her plans.

"I will become an ambassador of sport and healthy life. I will also explore opportunities in business, beauty and fashion among other endeavors," she said on her Facebook page.

"I will also have more time for my philanthropic activities with my work with UNICEF. I've lived my dreams and I really hope to help others do so as well."

A finalist at Roland Garros in 2007 and the Australian Open in 2008, Ivanovic lost in the first round of this year's U.S. Open to 89th-ranked Denisa Allertova of the Czech Republic. It was her second consecutive exit in the first round at Flushing Meadows.

Ivanovic announced a week

later she would take the rest of the season off because of wrist and toe injuries, saying she had a recurring wrist injury and would also have surgery on a toe she broke at the Australian Open in January 2015.

"Ana is a true champion and a great ambassador for the sport of women's tennis," WTA CEO Steve Simon said in a statement on the tour's website. "She has contributed greatly to the entire sport, both in her home country of Serbia and across the globe."

Brady throws for 3 scores to help Pats beat Miami, 35-14



MIAMI GARDENS, Florida (AP) — Tom Brady threw for 276 yards and three scores Sunday as the Patriots clinched home-field advantage throughout the AFC playoffs by beating the Dolphins 35-14.

New England took a 20-0 lead in the first half and turned away Miami's comeback bid with the help of a 77-yard touchdown catch-and-run by Julian Edelman and a 69-yard fumble return by linebacker Shea McClellin.

The Patriots (14-2), already assured of a first-round bye, became the ninth team since 1972 to go undefeated on the road during the regular season.

The Dolphins (10-6), beaten for only the second time in the past 11 games, had already earned an AFC wild-card berth. They play their first postseason game since 2008 next weekend at Pittsburgh.

Packers 31, Lions 24

In Detroit, Aaron Rodgers threw three of his four touchdown passes in the second half, lifting the Packers to an NFC North clincher.

Detroit's Matthew Stafford connected with Anquan Boldin for a 35-yard touchdown pass with 13 seconds left, but the Packers recovered the on-side kick.

The Packers (10-6) closed the regular season with six straight wins, running the table as Rodgers said they could after losing four straight midway through the season. They won the division for the fifth time in six years. Like his team, Rodgers has been perfect during the streak with 15 TD passes and no interceptions.

He will lead fourth-seeded Green Bay at home Sunday against the fifth-seeded New York Giants in an NFC wild-card game.

Giants 19, Redskins 10

In Landover, Maryland, facing an opponent with nothing to play for, Washington blew their chance to make the playoffs with an uninspired loss to New York.

The Redskins would have made the playoffs with a win. Instead, Kirk Cousins was intercepted twice in the second half by Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie and Washington (8-7-1) goes into an offseason filled with questions.

The Packers and Lions each qualified as a result of the Redskins' loss to New York (11-5), which will be the first wild card. Eli Manning played the entire game, going 17 of 27 for 180 yards despite the Giants opting for a conservative approach for much of the second half. The Giants will

travel to Green Bay to play the Packers next Sunday.

Chiefs 37, Chargers 27

In San Diego, Alex Smith threw for two touchdowns and ran for another as the Chiefs clinched the AFC West title and a first-round playoff bye in perhaps the final NFL game in San Diego.

The Chiefs (12-4) took the division with the win and Oakland's loss at Denver.

San Diego fired coach Mike McCoy after the game.

Smith scored on a 5-yard scramble early in the second quarter to tie the game at 10. He threw a 4-yard touchdown pass to wide-open Charcandrick West later in the quarter to put the Chiefs ahead for good. That followed the first of two interceptions of Philip Rivers that led to 10 points for the Chiefs.

Broncos 24, Raiders 6

In Denver, in a game that couldn't have gone much worse, Oakland lost its latest starting quarterback, Matt McGloin, to a shoulder injury, then fell to a team with nothing to play for as Denver coach Gary Kubiak told his players he will be stepping down for health reasons.

Combined with Kansas City's win over San Diego, the Raiders (12-4) squandered the AFC West title and the first-round bye that went with it—and instead fell to the No. 5 seed.

Now, they are a wild card with a rookie third-stringer, Connor Cook, as their only fully healthy quarterback.

Falcons 38, Saints 32

In Atlanta, Matt Ryan bolstered his MVP credentials with a brilliant first half, throwing four touchdown passes to secure a first-round playoff bye.

Ryan was 17 of 19 for 235 yards by halftime, directing the Falcons (11-5) to touchdowns on all five possessions and a commanding 35-13 lead. He finished 27 of 36 for 331 yards, leaving him with a franchise-record 4,944 yards, 38 touchdowns and just seven interceptions this season.

Atlanta is seeded second in the NFC to Dallas.

Steelers 27, Browns 24

In Pittsburgh, Steelers backups assured the Browns of the top pick in the 2017 draft.

Landry Jones hit Cobi Hamilton with a 26-yard touchdown with 2:57 left in overtime. The Browns took a lead on Cody Parkey's 34-yard field goal with 7:17 remaining in the extra session.

Jones, who started while the playoff-bound Steelers rested Ben Roethlisberger, took the



Steelers 75 yards in nine plays. The last was a pretty lob to the end zone that Hamilton hauled in to give Pittsburgh (11-5) its seventh straight victory.

Jones finished with 277 yards passing and three touchdowns and one interception. The Steelers host Miami next week.

Jets 30, Bills 10

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Ryan Fitzpatrick threw two touchdown passes in what was likely his final game for the Jets.

Despite a 5-11 record, the Jets are making no changes in leadership, meaning both coach Todd Bowles and general manager Mike Maccagnan will remain with the team next season.

Bowles is 15-17 in his two-year tenure with New York, which hired him in January 2015 after firing Rex Ryan. Maccagnan is also in his second season with the Jets, and had also been criticized for the team's roster, which likely faces an overhaul this offseason.

Titans 24, Texans 17

In Nashville, Tennessee, a concussion that sidelined quarterback Tom Savage could have the biggest impact coming out of the Texans' loss.

Savage started for the AFC South champions, left in the second quarter to be evaluated for a concussion and was cleared. He took a snap to kneel down on the final play of the first half and was diagnosed with a concussion after being re-evaluated at halftime.

That left Brock Osweiler, benched for Savage last month, running the offense. He threw for 253 yards and a touchdown and also ran for a 1-yard TD on fourth-and-goal in the fourth quarter.

Houston (9-7) will host

Oakland next weekend, possibly with uncertainty at quarterback.

DaQuan Jones recovered a fumble for a touchdown in the first quarter and the Titans never trailed to finish with their first winning season since 2011.

Eagles 27, Cowboys 13

In Philadelphia, Tony Romo threw his first touchdown pass in nearly 14 months as the playoff-bound Cowboys played it safe.

The Cowboys (13-3) had already locked up the No. 1 seed and home-field advantage throughout the NFC playoffs so Dak Prescott played only two series and Ezekiel Elliott watched from the sideline.

Carson Wentz tossed two TD passes to Zach Ertz to help Philadelphia finish with a two-game winning streak.

Buccaneers 17, Panthers 16 In Tampa, Florida, Jameis Winston threw for 202 yards and one touchdown as the Buccaneers broke up Cam Newton's 2-point conversion throw in the closing seconds for their first winning season in six years.

Winston threw a 10-yard pass to Mike Evans to snap a fourth-quarter tie and became the first player in NFL history to start his career with consecutive 4,000-yard seasons.

But the Bucs (9-7) were eliminated from playoff contention, not getting the help they needed in other games for their first berth since 2007.

Winston's franchise record-setting 28th TD pass put the Bucs ahead 17-10 with 3:10 remaining. Newton, however, moved the Panthers (6-10) right down the field, with help of a 47-yard pass to Kelvin Benjamin and two fourth-down completions to set up

a 5-yard scoring pass to trim Carolina's deficit to one with 17 seconds left.

Vikings 38, Bears 10

In Minneapolis, Sam Bradford concluded his first season with Minnesota with three first-half touchdown passes. Bradford went 25 for 33 for 250 yards and one interception, finishing with a 71.6 percent completion rate to set an NFL single-season record.

Kyle Rudolph caught 11 passes for 117 yards and a score for the Vikings (8-8), who started 5-0 before stumbling out of their bye week and never recovering.

The Bears (3-13) wound up with their fewest wins in a non-strike year since 1973 after turning the ball over five times. Everson Griffen returned one of their three lost fumbles for a touchdown.

Jordan Howard, the lone bright spot, rushed for 135 yards on 23 carries to break Matt Forte's franchise rookie record and finish with 1,313 yards for the season for Chicago.

Colts 24, Jaguars 20

In Indianapolis, Andrew Luck threw a 1-yard touchdown pass to Jack Doyle with 9 seconds left. Indy (8-8) went 75 yards in 84 seconds with no timeouts to avoid its first losing season since 2011, sending retiring linebacker Robert Mathis out with a win in his final NFL game.

Jacksonville (3-13) matched the second-worst record in franchise history after blocking a punt with 1:54 to go and breaking a 17-17 tie with 1:33 left.

Instead, Luck took the Colts right downfield for the score.

Mathis extended his league record of strip-sacks to 41 in the fourth quarter, two days after announcing

New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady (12) looks to pass, during the first half of an NFL football game against the Miami Dolphins, Sunday, Jan. 1, 2017, in Miami Gardens, Fla.

he would retire.

Bengals 27, Ravens 10

In Cincinnati, Andy Dalton completed his first 10 passes, one for a touchdown, and Rex Burkhead ran for a pair of scores in the Bengals' fifth straight win at home over the Ravens.

The Bengals (6-9-1) missed the playoffs for the first time in six years. Coach Marvin Lewis says he'll return in 2017.

Baltimore (8-8) failed to reach the playoffs for the third time in four years. The Ravens played their final game as if they were emotionally hung over from a last-minute loss at Pittsburgh last Sunday that eliminated them.

Seahawks 25, 49ers 23

In Santa Clara, California, Russell Wilson threw for 258 yards and a touchdown as the Seahawks rallied from an early 11-point deficit in what could be coach Chip Kelly's final game with the 49ers.

The NFC West champion Seahawks (10-5-1) head to the playoffs as the third seed in the NFC. The Seahawks will host Detroit next week.

The loss capped an awful season for the 49ers (2-14), who matched the franchise record for losses in a season previously reached in 1978, '79 and 2004. San Francisco general manager Trent Baalke told the team's flagship radio station KNBR before the game that he had been fired.

Seattle receiver Doug Baldwin caught two passes for 44 yards, tying the franchise record for catches in a season with 94. Baldwin tied Bobby Engram's mark set in 2007 with an acrobatic 41-yard catch in the second quarter.

Cardinals 44, Rams 6

In Los Angeles, Carson Palmer threw touchdown passes to Jeremy Ross, Darren Fells and Larry Fitzgerald, and the Cardinals wrapped up a frustrating season.

Fitzgerald caught five passes and took the overall NFL lead with 107 catches in perhaps his final game for the Cardinals (7-8-1). Arizona missed the playoffs one year after reaching the NFC championship game despite an offense and a defense ranked in the top quarter of the league.

Arizona still finished the year strong with wins over NFC West champion Seattle and Los Angeles (4-12), which has lost seven straight.

Bridge Capital LLC Saipan Duathlon 2016

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



Joshua Berger gives a thumbs-up sign as he nears completion of the bike part of the Bridge Capital LLC Saipan Duathlon 2016 held early last month in Marpi.



Dawn Hammermeister smiles as she is about to complete the race.



A biker, left, and a runner head to the finish line.



Two female finishers celebrate.



Ben Babauta takes his time crossing the finish line.



Mamiko Berger is a few steps away from finishing the 5K run, 20K bike, and 2.5K run race.



Charlie Sendin keeps a steady pace on his way to the finish line.



Husband and wife Brad and Kathy Ruszala near completion of the race.



**Hardaway
powers Hawks to
long-awaited OT
win over Spurs**

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**Brady throws
for 3 scores to
help Pats beat
Miami, 35-14**

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28 TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2017

SAIPAN TRIBUNE



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Agape Christian School 1 runners celebrate their first place finish in last Saturday's 35th Annual Christmas Island Relay at the Last Command Post.

Agape runners rule Christmas Island Relay

Rollers 1, CTSI get early lead



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Rollers 1's Emmanuel Cobacha pulls up for a point-blank shot during their game against Rollers 2 in the boys U16 division of the TanHoldings holiday caging last week at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Rollers 1 and CTSI got the solo lead in their respective divisions in the 2016 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament after easing past separate opponents last Wednesday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Rollers 1 downed the 670 Thunder, 54-23, for its

second straight win and the early lead in the boys U16 division. The 670 Thunder

dropped to a 1-1 card for a share of third place with the Ol'Aces 2. The 670 Sonics (1-0), MHS (0-1), Rollers 2 (0-1), and Ol'Aces 1 (0-0) complete the field.

Angelo Factor and Jude Tengco led Rollers 1's bal-

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By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Agape Christian School runners swept the open and youth division races in last Saturday's 35th Annual Christmas Island Relay.

Agape 1, which was made of up Jason Wang Shengen, Caleb Wang, Allan Zhao, Henry Xiong, and Hu En Ze, completed the 13.7-mile race from Pacific Islands Club to the Last Command Post in

Marpi in 1:27:42 to top the open division of Northern Marianas Athletics' season-ending event. Agape 1 was also the first overall finisher among the 21 teams and six solo runners that joined the

weekend competition.

The overall champions' time was more than two minutes faster than the winning mark (1:29:42) last year, which incidentally was posted by Agape's Wang, Xiong, Shengen, Chan Haoyu, and Chen Bai Ling.

Agape 1 also had a repeat against last year's runner-up Dark Horse Get Fit CNMI. Dark Horse made it to the Last Command Post at the 1:35:19 mark, more than four minutes slower than its

2015 time of 1:31:05. Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel once again suited up for Dark Horse and joined forces with Vince and Vincent Tudela, Keith Longuski, and a female ACS runner.

TRAC Run's Nap Dizon, Emily Northrop, Florence Antonio, Teng Tacras, and Ronald Villafria rounded out the Top 3 finishers in the open division after completing the morning race in 1:37:37.

See AGAPE on Page 26



Newcastle FC wins in shootout



Newcastle FC clinched the co-ed U16 division title in the 2016 Saipan Soccer School Christmas Youth Futsal Tournament after outgunning Astig, 3-2, in a shootout last Friday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Mareko Tekopua made the winning kick off Astig goalkeeper John Bucayo, while Guinevere Borja and Joshua De Leon scored the two other points for Newcastle FC in the shootout.

The Astig-Newcastle FC title match went to a shootout after the former's Alan Hinson knocked in the equalizer in the last two minutes of the regulation and Sun Joon



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Newcastle FC's Sunjoon Tenorio makes a high kick, while Astig's Alan Hinson, right, stays close in the play during the second half of their title game in the co-ed U16 division of the 2016 Saipan Soccer School Christmas Youth Futsal Tournament last Friday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Tenorio faltered on his penalty kick in the final 30 seconds of the second half.

Earlier in the first half De Leon found the back of the net to put Newcastle FC on the driver's seat. The eventual champion kept the shaky lead and had a chance to win the match outright when Bucayo left his spot in an attempt to steal the ball from an attacking Tenorio. The Newcastle FC striker then went for a quick release with the ball rolling to the right corner. Fortunately for Astig, Angel Sally stepped into the play and blocked the ball.

After the big defensive stop, it was Astig's turn to attack

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